

CAPPOQUIN

A Brief Guide to an Area's Rich Heritage

Contents:

1. Down by the River	Page 3
2. West and South-West of Cappoquin	Page 7
3. The Western Side of Town	Page 10
Map Guides	Pages 15-18
4. From the Centre, Southwards	Page 19
5. South from Cappoquin	Page 23
6. Moving Eastwards through the Town	Page 26
7. To the East and North-East	Page 30
Acknowledgements	Page 32

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A Brief Guide to an Area's Rich Heritage

(A series of seven guided heritage trails in and around the town)

Produced by

Cappoquin Heritage Group

June 2007

Most of the places and people identified in this booklet are commemorated by a series of stone plaques and lecterns placed in appropriate locations. We hope you will enjoy the experience of Cappoquin's rich and varied heritage, and that the plaques and lecterns will complement the material contained in the booklet and maps. Our front-cover picture is based on Arthur Maderson's drawing of Walsh's Hotel, formerly the Cappoquin Barracks. The drawing on the back is Arthur's depiction of the Market House in other days.



This modern scene by the river shows the mid 19th century Avonmore Bridge, with the Boathouse alongside

1. Down by the River (Walking trail)

The right angled bend in the Blackwater river at Cappoquin dates back at least as far as seventy million years. It came about, according to most scholars, as a result of a phenomenon called ‘river capture’, involving the original river which flowed through the area, the Suir, diverting its course around modern Ardfinnan and heading eastwards to Waterford. The old river bed, coming down through Ballinamult to Cappoquin, just dried up or remained as a mere trickle. It is possible that either the Glenshelane or Finnisk rivers, which enter the modern Blackwater south of Cappoquin, are remnants of the original Suir. In any event, by the time the Suir ceased to flow through the Cappoquin area, a major tributary had been coming across Kerry and Cork to meet with it at Cappoquin. As the Suir dried up, this tributary just continued to flow along the old route from Cappoquin to the sea. So, what looks to the eye like one river, the Blackwater, changing course dramatically at Cappoquin was once, in fact, two rivers.

The river has been a major feature of Cappoquin life over the centuries. It attracted Mesolithic peoples to hunt and fish thousands of years ago, and monks to find a crossing point on it on the road from Lismore to Ardmore 1300 years ago. In the early 17th century, it brought the Earl of Cork, who established industry and built a bridge along its banks. In recent times the drive to develop new housing in the town has certainly changed the riverscape considerably. Yet, there remains something majestic, something deep and brooding about the mighty river which nothing in human activity has managed to alter, nor ever will. We start at the Avonmore Bridge, possibly the best vantage point to view the river from.

Avonmore Bridge: This great Famine relief project of the Keane family was opened in 1851 but the name, 'Victoria Bridge' was later chiselled out by nationalists. The original plaque is still visible at the mid-point of the bridge, which once carried the main Cappoquin-Lismore road. This bridge was also a target of attack during the Troubles of the 1920s. You can still see where an explosion required extensive repairs to be done, if you look very closely.



This picture of Avonmore Bridge shows part of it damaged during the Troubles.

Looking northwards, you will see the beautiful woods which attracted the Earl of Cork to Cappoquin in search of charcoal for his iron smelting industries in the 1600s. It was also through this area, Chapel Wood, that the churchgoers of Cappoquin's first Catholic parish went to mass in the 18th century, near the site of the restored gate lodge of Salterbridge House.



Tivoli House overlooking the Blackwater

Tivoli House (Private): This Keane family home was once home to Harry Keane, the founder of the original Cappoquin Bacon Factory in 1907. The house dates from the 1820s and was previously associated with the Dennehy family. A plaque to Harry Keane, erected by public subscription, stands near the now-disused Tivoli entrance gate on the Lismore road.

Parochial House (Private): This has been home of the Parish Priests of Cappoquin since it was built in 1896 by Canon Spratt at a cost of £900 sterling (c.€1,350 in today's money). The architect of the Swiss-chalet style house was Andrew O'Riordan of Lismore. Canon Spratt was himself the nephew of an earlier Fr. Spratt, the Parish Priest who brought the Mercy Order to Cappoquin in 1850.



The Parochial House, little changed since 1896



The home of Cappoquin Rowing Club

The Boathouse: Part of Cappoquin's river heritage includes the Rowing Club's 'Boathouse'. Not only has this been a centre of rowing but it has also been the venue for countless dances, concerts and shows, with the likes of Bowyer and Woodward bringing opera and McMaster, Mac Liammóir and Edwards performing Shakespeare. A plaque commemorates the latter two nearby. This is at least the third boathouse on or near this site, the previous two having been more modest, single storey structures. The club is one of Ireland's oldest, founded in the 1860s.

C.O. Stanley: A great patron of Cappoquin rowing and son of one of the club's founders, C.O. Stanley was one of the most successful businessmen in mid 20th century Britain, with the famous PYE television company among his enterprises.



The commemorative plaque to C. O. Stanley.



The beautiful split-level Daly cottage

The Daly Family Home: The Dalys were river boat captains on the Blackwater for over a century, and co-founders of Cappoquin Rowing Club. The quay used by the early boats was at the end of the back garden of the family's split level home, where the original Boathouse also stood in the 1860s.

Mass Lane: Sometimes now called Tivoli Terrace, this was the route taken by Catholic churchgoers to the first church in the parish, which was established in 1750. The lane once formed part of the Cappoquin-Lismore road and was then called 'Old Chapel Road'.



Picturesque Mass Lane today

Strolling from Mass Lane (carefully) across the Lismore Road brings us down ‘Woodenbridge Lane’, to the main site of Cappoquin’s trade and industry heritage.



A drawing of the original wooden bridge at Cappoquin, from ‘Dublin Penny Journal’ 1832.

Boyle’s Iron Works and Bridge: The Earl of Cork built his iron works and cannon foundry here in the 1620s, as well as a 600-ton wooden bridge which was the only bridge over the Blackwater between Fermoy and the sea for nearly two centuries. The works specialised in cannon manufacture for the 30 Years War and was one of the main industries to emerge from the Munster Plantation. Cannon were exported as far away as Amsterdam. The wooden bridge was destroyed during the 1640s but was rebuilt by Act of Parliament.

Cappoquin Bacon

Factory: This one-time employer of over 200 people was founded initially by the Keane family. Between 1907 and 1980, this factory was synonymous with Cappoquin and was western Waterford’s most important industry. The company’s black and yellow vans and lorries were common sights on the roads all over Munster.



An early 20th century photograph of carts delivering pigs to Cappoquin Bacon Factory

The South of Ireland Wheel and Carriage Works: Manufacturing some of the items needed for the railway boom of the post-Famine period, this company stood at the river bend in the second half of the 19th century. No trace of its buildings now remains but it stood roughly where the present Jardin Chanât La Mouteyre now lies.

2. West and South-West of Cappoquin (Driving or cycling trail)

About a mile along the Lismore road west from Cappoquin, at the ‘Kitchenhole’, a picnic site and lectern display gives an opportunity to absorb the beauty and history of this area further.

Salterbridge House (Limited Opening): Salterbridge House is visible from this spot as well. It was once home to the Musgraves and then Chearnleys. It is currently the Wingfield family residence. Across river from you can also see Kilbree Castle (Private), dating from medieval times.



Salterbridge House (Limited Opening)

Moving back towards town and then southwards over the Avonmore Bridge, we now head in the direction of late 19th century trading developments and of the districts of Drumroe and Tourin, the latter taking its name from the linen bleaching fields which dotted this area in the 18th century particularly.



The Red Bridge shortly before the railway closed, taken by Michael J. Walsh.

The Steamers’ Quay: From 1878 until the mid 20th century, this was the main quay used for Cappoquin’s river traffic. Apart from the goods imports and exports going through Youghal, passenger excursions to Youghal were often entertained on board by the local band.



A passenger steamer leaving the Steamers’ Quay

Travelling further south, with the Blackwater on our left and Kilbree House (Private) to the right, we pass the old lime kilns at the ‘Rock’, now looking upon a boat slipway and beautiful picnic site. The patron saint of Waterford and Lismore, Declan, is thought to have been born in this district of Drumroe, with the parish cemetery here, dating from 1910, being appropriately called St. Declan’s.

These districts, along with Norrisland further south, were also major centres of the area’s cider producing industry over the centuries, as well as supplying much of the reeds, rushes and twigs for the basket-making trade which flourished in 19th century Cappoquin due to the importance of the goods trade in the town.



Norrisland Castle (Private)

At **Norrisland Castle (Private)** and at Affane on the other side of the Blackwater, once stood the lands of the Greatrakes family. You now reach part of one of the oldest routes in Ireland, **Bóthar na Naomh**: This ancient roadway known at the ‘Road of the Saints’ runs here along the southern boundary of the townland of Drumroe. The monks crossed the river at its shallowest point, known locally as the ‘Cooples’, on their way between the Lismore and Ardmore monasteries.

Valentine Greatrakes: The famous 17th century healer of the ‘King’s evil’ (scrofula) held lands on both sides of the Blackwater. The Cooples is a midway point between the two parts of the family territories. Greatrakes is thought to be buried at Affane.



Valentine Greatrakes

In the Lismore direction lies a Famine graveyard and reputed birthplace of St. Declan, called ‘Reiligín Déagláin’ (Private lands). Southwards, lies Tourin.



Tourin hurlers 1950

Tourin Hurlers: This club became Waterford’s Senior Hurling Champions on the 10th September 1950, beating Mt. Sion by 3-7 to 2-5 in a historic final. The club remains the smallest ever to achieve the distinction of winning the title.

Tourin House (Limited Opening): Built to replace a Roche tower house of 1560, which still stands by the river, this 1840s house was designed by Abraham Denny. It was then home to the Musgraves but is now home of the Jameson family, of Irish whiskey fame. Joan Jameson was a painter of great renown in the early and mid 20th century. Nearby, we can also see the Musgrave school house where poet Edward Walsh once taught.



Tourin House, the Jameson home

Continuing past Tourin House, we find some of the finest river views in Ireland, as the road takes in the sight of Dromana House, home of the Villiers-Stuarts, perched on a cliff across river. The road continues past Camphire House (Private) to Camphire and the River Bride, once a busy trading artery in its own right, with a number of quaysides being used along the Bride to load cargo such as timber and iron ore over the centuries. The ruined church at Okyle (Private lands) near Camphire dates back to the later middle ages.



Camphire Bridge today.

3. The Western Side of Town (Walking trail)

Back in Cappoquin itself, moving eastwards from the river, Main Street, Church Street and Mill Street all developed as the early town settlement expanded in the 1700s. The fact that Cappoquin had a bridge across the Blackwater from the 1620s, was accessible to shipping because the Blackwater was tidal well beyond it and lay on the road network connecting west Waterford, south Tipperary and east Cork all helped in this development.

Main Street in particular has always been the heart of commercial Cappoquin, although trading patterns have changed considerably since 1950 when the town had twenty two registered grocers and seven drapers, most of them in this area. Many of the shop fronts still to be seen in central Main Street date from the early 19th century. Hely's Pharmacy has a relatively modern shop front but is not far off two centuries in existence in the same location. The three-storey nature of most of the premises on Main Street also shows how wealthy the 19th century town was, with ground space at a premium.



An early 20th century view of Main Street, showing the many shop premises

As the busiest and traditionally most populous street in the town, Main Street has been home to many great figures of the locality, including All-Ireland minor hurling winner Billy Conway and educator Pádraig Denn. It was here too that traditional businesses like Moore's and Conway's Hotels, along with Kingston's Stanley's, Hick's and Mansfield's flourished in the town until the latter half of the 20th century, while Lehane's remains the town's longest standing garage and filling station.



The Noel Mulcahy plaque.

Pádraig Denn: The famous teacher, Irish scholar and man of faith taught his school at or near what is now the *Toby Jug*, in the 19th century. He is believed to be buried in the graveyard of St. Mary's Catholic Church, which lay near his school too.



Pádraig Denn taught his school beside Hely's Pharmacy, though it is uncertain on which side of it.



St Anne's Church today.

St. Anne's Church of Ireland: The Church of Ireland was built between the 1820s and 1830 and has undergone a number of structural changes since then, including the removal of its spire in the late 19th century and the change of clock face from square to round in the 20th.

Church Street was home to Mick Lacey, All Ireland winner with Waterford Senior Hurlers in 1959, as well as the first location of the company which is generally known as M.D. O'Connor and Sons, Poultry Processors. Many people consider Church Street to actually be an extension of Mill Street. This could well be, as the two churches here are relatively 'new' at under two centuries old.

Mill Street is so called because it housed an old grain and later timber mill which once stood on the site of the new community centre. This mill was powered by water, with a mill race originating nearly two miles away on the Glenshelane river coming along the southern edge of the old town, under the road at the junction of Mill Street and Cooke Street and along where now stands a fine line of trees and decorative lights. Mill Street was once the centre of the basket making and coopering trades which developed owing to Cappoquin's trading prominence.



The houses which once constituted the Convent of Mercy

The Convent Site (Private houses):

Although the first residence of the Sisters of Mercy who came to Cappoquin in 1850 was somewhere in Main Street, these buildings were occupied for a considerable time by the Sisters, prior to building the new convent after 1901. The RIC also used part of the structure as a barracks prior to Irish independence, although the main police barracks from then until the 1970s lay near the junction of Mass Lane and Main Street.

St. Mary's Catholic Church: Built over a number of years, culminating in 1822, this church replaced the original Catholic church which stood at Salterbridge since the 1700s. The plaque commemorating Pádraig Denn is on the wall near the grotto. The small graveyard beside the church was, in fact, the only cemetery within the parish until the opening of St. Declan's in Drumroe in the early 20th century.



St. Mary's Catholic Church, with Mill Street and the entrance to the community centre to the right

Proceeding along Mill Street, where the pleasant green area is now was once the mill race that powered the mill which gave the street its name.



The parochial hall in earlier days.

The mill itself dated from the 18th century and was one of several which dotted the town in different locations. On this street lived Mossy O'Connor, local winner of two All Ireland hurling medals with Cork during the 1950s when based there with the army.

The Parochial School and Hall: This building served as the main school in the town for much of the 19th century and half of the 20th century. In later times, it became the parish hall and was used by the BBC in their 1982 filming of the William Trevor story, *One of Ourselves*. As the parochial hall, it has hosted countless events over the years and also houses the Billiards and Snooker Club, founded in 1927.

Hugh Collender: One of the Young Irelanders who attacked the barracks in Cappoquin in 1849, Hugh Collender later fled to the USA where he became one of the founders of the biggest billiard table making company in the world, Brunswick, Balck & Collender. The company survives to this day, now simply called 'Brunswick'. Collender is appropriately commemorated outside the Billiards and Snooker Club.

The Browne Family: Number 6, Mill Street (Private house) was the ancestral home of a family which included Cardinal Michael Browne, Monsignor Pádraig de Brún, Máire Mac an tSaoi and a number of other literary and clerical scholars. The family story was also the basis for *The Big Sycamore*, a novel by Joseph Brady (pen name of Fr. Maurice Browne) published in 1958 and which depicts much of 19th century Cappoquin.



The first US Collender factory



LEFT: The day in 1961 that Cardinal Browne visited Cappoquin.

Jimmy Foley: The former proprietor of the Railway Bar, once the Railway Hotel, Jimmy Foley won two Irish senior cycling championships during the 1940s and the title of Best All-Round Cyclist in 1942. With petrol shortages in World War II, he regularly cycled up to 100 miles to get to the competitions!



Jimmy Foley (left), with a great local motorcyclist, Willie Sargent

As Mill Street meets Cooke Street, on a now-redeveloped site once stood the main premises of M.D. O'Connor and Sons, until it moved to Lefanta out the road in the 1970s. O'Connors' has been much more than a poultry processing concern over the years, with a long tradition in salmon, rabbit and fruit shipment as well. From an initial handful of workers, by the 21st century, O'Connor's gave employment to close on 200 people.



As well as the many full-time workers, O'Connor's employed lots of local part-time helpers over the years.

Beside O'Connors' stood Harrington's Hotel, one of six such establishments which served the needs of travellers in the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Harrington's Hotel, where Mill Street meets Cooke Street, in its heyday of the early 20th century

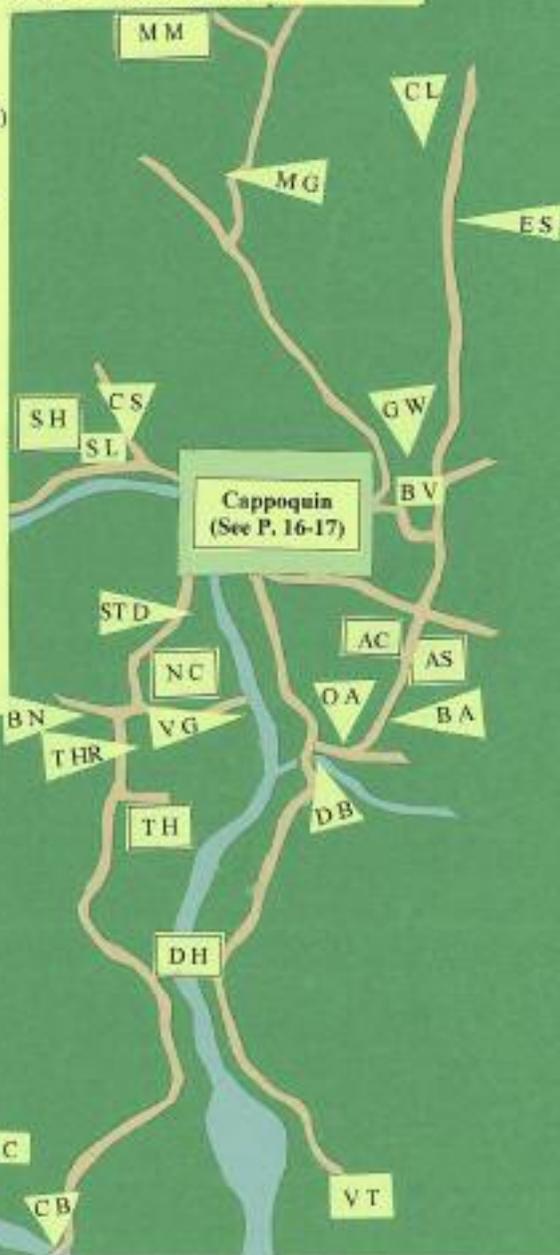
The General Cappoquin Area

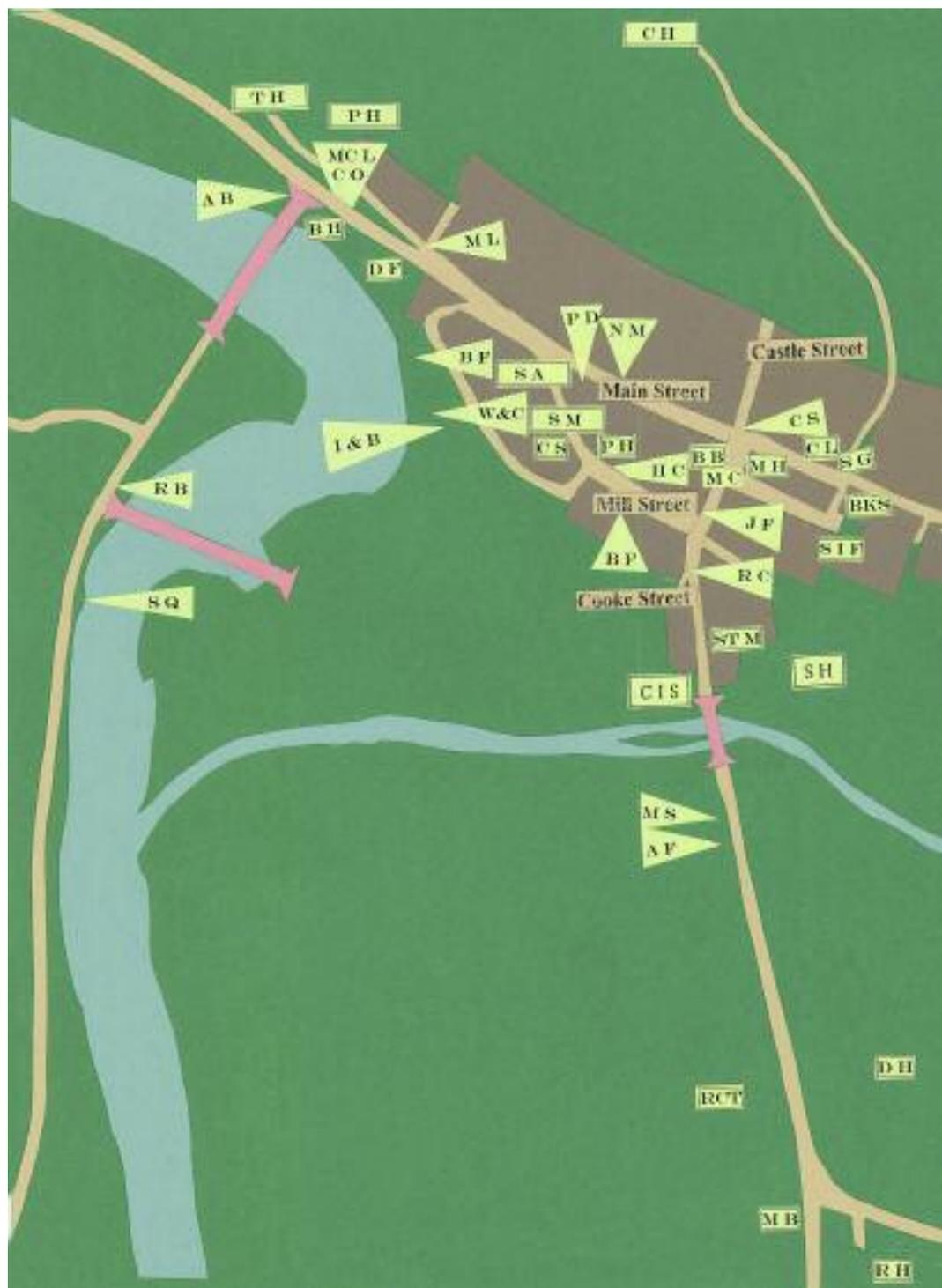
Below is a key to the locations around Cappoquin which are identified on the map here. The immediate town area map is on Pages 16-17, with all places having the relevant trail number given in brackets after them.

SH	Salterbridge House (2)
SL	Salterbridge Lodge (2)
CS	Church Site (2)
ST D	St. Declan's Cemetery (2)
NC	Norrisland Castle (2)
BN	Bothar na Naomh (2)
VG	Valentine Greatrakes (2)
T HR	Tourin Hurlers (2)
TH	Tourin House (2)
OC	Okyle Church (2)
CB	Camphire Bridge (2)

OA	Old Affane (5)
DB	Dromana Bridge (5)
BA	Battle of Affane (5)
DH	Dromana House (5)
VT	Villierstown (5)

GW	Glenshelane Walk (7)
BH	Belleville (7)
ES	Earl's Stone (7)
CL	Cluttahina Lios (7)
AS	Affane School (7)
AC	Affane Church (7)
MG	Melleray Grotto (7)
MM	Mount Melleray (7)





Cappoquin Heritage Sites



Town Map Key

Trail 1:

Avonmore Bridge (A B)
Tivoli House (T V)
Parochial House (P H)
Boathouse (B H)
Mac Liammóir and Edwards (MC L)
C.O. Stanley (C)
Daly Family Home (D F)
Mass Lane (M L)
Boyle's Iron Works and Bridge (I & B)
Cappoquin Bacon Factory (B F)
Wheel and Carriage Works (W&C)

Trail 2:

Red Bridge (R B)
Steamers' Quay (S Q)

Trail 3:

Noel Mulcahy (N M)
Pádraig Denn (P D)
St. Anne's Church of Ireland (S A)
The Convent Site (C S)
St. Mary's Catholic Church (S M)
Parochial School and Hall (P H)
Hugh Collender (H C)
Browne Family (B F)
Jimmy Foley (J F)

Trail 4:

The Cornerstone (C S)
The Market House (M H)
Barron's Bakery (B B)
Michael Cavanagh (M C)
Robert Cooke (R C)
St. Michael's (ST M)
Station House (S H)
Church of Ireland School (C I S)
Magnificent Seven (M S)
Affane Senior Footballers (A F)

Trail 5:

Derriheen House/Drs. White (D H)
Rectory (RCT)
Mulcahy brothers (M B)
Richmond House (R H)

Trail 6:

Carnegie Free Library (C L)
Sargent's Garage (S G)
Walsh's Hotel/The Barracks (BKS)
Star Foundry and Implement Works (SIF)
Cappoquin House (C H)
The Desmond (D C)
Vocational School (VEC)
Convent Primary School (C P)
St. Anne's (ST A)
Convent of Mercy (C M)
Dane's Field (D F)

Trail 7:

The Monument (MT)



The market square of Cappoquin, focal point of trade for at least four centuries.

4. From the Centre, Southwards (Walking trail)

Perhaps the focal point of much of Cappoquin is the area around the Square. This is the point at which Castle Street, so-called because it was the original route to Cappoquin Castle, meets with Main Street, Green Street and Cooke Street. For walking purposes, it is much easier to start at the top of Castle Street and come downhill, as the road slopes continually all the way to the GAA field over half a mile away. Castle Street once went much further than it does now, linking the town all the way to Cappoquin Castle on the hillside above.

Historically, Castle Street was a central thoroughfare in the town and was probably the main street bringing goods to and from Dungarvan. In the 1640s, we know that the Confederate Wars saw a lot of action at Cappoquin, prominent because of its bridge and ironworks. While the town did not have a defensive wall, the Earl of Cork certainly recorded the existence of an earthen rampart running south of the town, probably at the southern end of Castle Street. This rampart was breached on several occasions in the 1640s, with records extant of a lot of skirmishes and civilian casualties at this time.

The Square itself is compact but a pleasant place to sit for a while, perhaps admiring the Michael Cavanagh memorial or the salmon sculpture. The symbol of the town has traditionally been the cornerstone, just at the point where Castle Street meets Main Street. Sitting on this is regarded as a matter of local compulsion, especially if conversation over lengthy and weighty issues is required.



The Cornerstone: The symbol of the town, with a remarkable Faustean legend attached to it. The legend deals with a local nobleman, Tomas Bán Fitzgerald, who made a tragic agreement with the hounds of the Devil in order to gain fleeting riches. Most local people consider the smaller stone to the right to be the original cornerstone, although it remains nicely balanced by the other, larger stone on the left as you look from the Square north towards Castle Street.

The Cornerstone, Cloch an Chúinne.

The Market House: This is probably the oldest building in Cappoquin, dating in its original form from 1628. It functioned as a courthouse until the 1970s and, as far as anyone can tell, has been a continuous trading centre in the town for nearly four centuries. If so, this may well be the oldest shop-site in Ireland. In the 1980s, a 17th century well was uncovered during building work nearby, while today the Market House and Square are the departure points for all Cappoquin sports teams.



An unusual team about to depart at the Market House



Barron's Bakery

Barron's Bakery: This is one of Ireland's oldest commercial bakeries, with original Scotch brick ovens intact. Barron's was founded here in the mid 1880s. Note the hanging sign over the door. 19th and much of 20th century Cappoquin was a hive of industry and small, self-contained businesses. Barron's Coffee Shop served as Keating's Saddlery for over 60 years.

Michael Cavanagh: The patriot and author whose statue stands at the Square was born in a house in Cooke Street, directly across the road from St. Michael's. He went to America after the failed rebellion of 1849 and became, among other things, the official biographer of Thomas Francis Meagher, the Young Ireland leader and Civil War hero. Cavanagh is also credited with being the first man to publish the legend of the Cornerstone in 1864.



The Michael Cavanagh statue



The Cooke plaque.

Robert Cooke: As Castle Street moves southwards, it becomes Cooke Street, called after one of Cappoquin's more eccentric former inhabitants, a man who insisted on wearing only white linen clothing. More curiously still, Cooke also insisted on keeping a herd of only-white cattle although he was a vegan himself. Cooke wrote some fascinating philosophical tracts and was one of Cappoquin's Quaker community, which had a meeting house somewhere in Mill Street in the 18th century.



A view of life in St. Michael's circa 1900

St. Michael's: In this building, the Sisters of Mercy ran a major industrial school, mainly for boys, between the 1870s and the 1970s. It has since been modernised and redeveloped as Riverview Guesthouse. At its height St. Michael's catered for nearly 100 children.

The Station House (Private): Between 1878 and 1967, the station house was a hive of activity in Cappoquin as it served the passengers and handled the freight which passed through en route to Mallow, Waterford, Mount Melleray and so on.



The station at Cappoquin, in its prime, photographed by Michael J. Walsh



The former Church of Ireland School.

The Church of Ireland School (Private): This beautifully-situated building on the banks of the town's second river, the Glenshelane, dates from 1832. Note the date plaque in the gable wall. The building remained in operation as a school until the mid 20th century.

Crossing over the Glenshelane Bridge, we come to Cappoquin's GAA field on the right hand side. Venue for many, many matches over the years, it hosted the All-Ireland Camogie Final in 1945.

From 1969, the Cappoquin and Affane GAA Clubs joined forces, with the club's hurling teams being called 'Cappoquin' and the football teams being known as 'Affane'.



Cappoquin's Magnificent Seven.

The 'Magnificent Seven': In addition to trainer Paddy Cunningham, the Cappoquin club had six players on Waterford's All-Ireland winning minor hurling team of 1948. They were Billy Conway, Vincent Walsh, Michael Kelleher, Joe Flynn, Michael O'Connor and Michael Browne. O'Connor later won a senior All-Ireland medal too in 1959, and had the distinction of being on the Waterford Senior Football team which beat Kerry in the 1957 Championship.

Affane Footballers: Having lost the 1973 final by a narrow margin, the local senior footballers became county champions in 1974, defeating Dunhill by 1-8 to 0-6 at Walsh Park, Waterford.



The 1974 County Senior Football Champions.

5. South from Cappoquin (Driving or cycling trail)

Leaving the GAA field behind, the eight kilometre stretch from Cappoquin to Villierstown, taking in 'old' Affane on the way, is steeped in history and beauty.



Derriheen House(Private).

The Rectory (Private): This mid 19th century house is the former rectory of the Church of Ireland ministers in Cappoquin. The father of poet Louis McNeice started an illustrious clerical career as a humble Church of Ireland curate in Cappoquin before proceeding to become a celebrated bishop later in life.



The Rectory (Private).

The road forks at this point, with the main road to Dungarvan going eastwards but the route to Villierstown keeping us alongside the river Blackwater's floodplain.

The Mulcahy brothers: A wall plaque here remembers John and James Mulcahy. Comrades of Edmund Rice, came to Cappoquin from the Christian Brothers School in Dungarvan to open a free school near Cappoquin in 1813. John ran the school for over thirty years, mainly under the auspices of the bishop, until his death. In 1832, following the Stanley Education Act, this school became Cappoquin's first National School. It closed in 1847.

Richmond House: With an entrance just at the fork in the road, this stately home, now a guesthouse and restaurant, was built in 1701 by the Earl of Cork. As such, it is believed to be Cappoquin's oldest single mansion, being pre-Georgian in design. It was once occupied by a branch of the Villiers-Stuart family of Dromana.



Richmond House.

Leaving Cappoquin and heading in the direction of Villierstown, it is worth remembering that one of the earliest recorded sites of human activity in Ireland lies to the right of the roadway, in the district known as Lefanta ('Grey meadow'). Mesolithic artefacts dating back to Mesolithic times were found in the 1980s here by a UCC archaeological party. You will pass by the main industrial base of Cappoquin and along by another former property of the Greatrakes family.



'Old' Affane Churchyard today.

Old Affane: Continuing eastwards from here would bring the visitor to the ancient graveyard of Affane (restricted access), with some graves going back centuries. Affane means 'middle ford', a name dating from the time when a substantial medieval village stood here, at crossing points on both the Blackwater and Finnisk rivers.



Dromana bridge and gates.

Dromana Gate Lodge & Bridge:

The remarkable gate lodge built in Hindu Gothic style marks the old entrance to the Villiers-Stuart estate. It was built originally to replace a papier mache archway which celebrated the wedding of one of the Villiers-Stuart family. The bridge was part of the estate until the 1970s, when it was taken over and rebuilt by the county council.



The Battle of Affane: At Dromana Bridge there stands another lectern, commemorating the Battle of Affane. The road northwards past old Affane graveyard and heading towards Cappoquin again is known locally as Boheravaggera (Bóthar a' Mhachaire) the 'road of the battle'. It was along this route that the bloody Battle of Affane was fought in February, 1565, setting in motion the events which led to the Desmond Rebellions and subsequently the Plantation of Munster.

The Earl of Ormond, victor in the Battle of Affane, 1565

Beyond Dromana Bridge lies a beautiful area of rolling pastures and dense woods, with glimpses of the Blackwater in between. **Dromana House** (Limited Opening) was once home of the Fitzgeralds but for several centuries has been the base of the Villiers-Stuarts. Beyond it, and created by the Villiers-Stuart family, lies Villierstown, an 18th century village, purpose-built to house Ulster linen weavers brought to work on locally grown flax.



Dromana House, viewed from the opposite side of the river, with workers loading pit props onto the 'deWadden'.



Villierstown.

Villierstown itself has a number of plaques and depictions of its history, the most modern being a tribute to its famous athletic son, John Treacy, whose early training involved a five mile run to school in Cappoquin, and back again each day. The quay at Villierstown once had a ferry boat which brought passengers across to the western side of the Blackwater and still gives fine views of the deep valley through which the great river winds its way southwards to Youghal.

6. Moving Eastwards through the Town (Walking trail)

In some respects, the eastern part of Cappoquin is the newest part. Yet, it is recorded that the town's military barracks was based here, in Barrack Street (also now called Allen Street), in the early 18th century. The entrance to Cappoquin House stands at the point where Main Street narrows and becomes Barrack Street, the same spot where the last action of the Young Ireland movement occurred on the 16th September 1849. Around the corner, Green Street was home not only to the village green but also to the fever hospital and the famous Keane iron foundry.



An early 20th century view of upper Main Street, rising to the imposing barracks building.

As we go further east, while the streetscape is very much of the 20th century, the Shanbally area was once a village in its own right. It was here that, until the first years of the 21st century, the major educational institutions of the town were gathered. The town's remaining school, Bunscoil Gleann Sídhéain, lies at the southern side of the main road. Overlooking the point where Barrack Street becomes Shanbally, and vice versa, stands the Convent of Mercy. The imposing building boasts the finest view of the lower Blackwater valley that there is. The lower side of Shanbally is known generally as the Dane's Field but the origins of this name are more or less a mystery today.

Few families have been as synonymous with Cappoquin as the Lonergans, who set up a tailoring business in Main Street in the 1920s. The shop has doubled as a focal point for hurlers and the occasional Tipperary man since; part of the town's rich craft heritage.



Thomas and Noel Lonergan at work, as pictured by Susan Nicassio in 1980

The Library: The town's Carnegie Free Library was built in the early years of the 20th century with funds from the famous Carnegie Foundation of the USA. It has also served as the town's courthouse on occasion, and is now both a meeting venue and a regular exhibition centre.

Cappoquin's Carnegie Library



Sargent's Garage, during the early 1960s, with Michael Sargent (right) and Jack Fraher in attendance.

Sargent's Garage: One of the first car dealerships in County Waterford, Sargent's Garage operated on this site for over fifty years under the auspices of one of the town's great sporting families. The Sargent Cup county hurling league is named after Willie Sargent, a champion motorcyclist who was killed in a crash.

Walsh's Hotel/The Barracks: The building now known as Walsh's Hotel was originally the army barracks and then constabulary barracks in Cappoquin. The site housed a troop of horse or more and was the focal point of the 1849 Young Ireland attack in Cappoquin, which was the last element of the movement's activities in the country.



The focal point of the 1849 rebellion.



A Star plough, as made at Cappoquin.

The Foundry and Implement Works: Here stood the internationally known farm implement works of R & F Keane. It employed 120 workers in the late 19th century and exported farm machinery under the famous STAR brand as far away as Romania and South Africa. A fever hospital also stood nearby, between the foundry and the barracks.



Cappoquin House (Limited Opening): The Georgian home of the Keane family since the 18th century also stands on the site of an Elizabethan house built by Sir Christopher Hutton and of an earlier, medieval castle owned by the Fitzgeralds. Destroyed during the Troubles of the 1920s, the main building was destroyed and later rebuilt, with a flat roof replacing the original slated one, and the main entrance door was moved to the courtyard.

Cappoquin House

The Desmond: Cappoquin's former cinema and theatre stood on this site from 1945 to 2005. The Desmond hosted locally produced shows, as well as visiting players like Maureen Potter and Jimmy O'Dea. It served as the Parish Church during renovations of St. Mary's in 1967 and later still as a tyre centre and garage.



The Desmond as it once was.



The Cappoquin Vocational School.

Cappoquin Vocational School: Second level education was provided in this building for much of the 20th century, from the 1920s as the Cappoquin VEC school and from the 1960s as part of St. Anne's. In addition to the regular classes held in this school, it won considerable fame for its night classes, not least in Irish, under the leadership of Labhrás Ó Cadhla and Pádraig Ó Fiannusa.

The Convent Primary School: The convent primary school was opened on this site in 1903 and continued to offer excellent educational service to the community for over a century afterwards.



A Jack Fraser drill display at the convent in the 1960s



Convent of Mercy (Private): After half a century in the town centre, the Mercy nuns built their main convent building here between 1902 and 1903. The building became synonymous with religious and educational life in Cappoquin for a full century, until closed when the order left the town.

The Convent of Mercy in Shanbally.

St. Anne's: St. Anne's secondary school, run by the Mercy order, stood on this site until its closure in 2003. Originally a girls' school, it became co-educational after the introduction of free education in 1967. Famous alumni include world champion athlete John Treacy and poet and novelist, Thomas McCarthy.

An aerial view of St. Anne's and the other schools

Cappoquin Boys' School: The boys' national school stood near this spot from its construction in 1945 to its demolition in 2005. It had replaced the school in the Parochial Hall and was itself replaced just across the road by Bunscoil Gleann Sídhéain..



The Boys' School.

Most of the Shanbally area that we see today dates from the 1950s or more recently. The picture to the right here shows an aerial view of the first block of houses being built. O'Donohue Terrace was named after the local rebel who died in the 1849 attack on the Barracks.



The first houses being built at Shanbally

7. To the East and North-East (Driving or cycling trail)

Moving from Shanbally out of Cappoquin, the rolling plain which stretches down to Dungarvan is clearly visible to the south, as are the hills which eventually finish at Helvick Head.

The Monument: This monument was erected in the 1960s by the survivors of the old West Waterford Brigade of the IRA to commemorate the people who had fought and died locally during the Troubles of the early 20th century. Local fundraising, involving people of many political viewpoints, covered the cost.



The group pictured at the opening of the Monument.

With the Monument situated at a fork in the road eastwards from Cappoquin, one is faced with a choice of routes. Taking the one to the right (south) of the Monument brings one down a steep hill, passing Glenshelane, a beautiful signposted forest walk.

Apart from its natural beauty, watch for an old engineering device built into the river to bring water up hill from the river to the Keane demesne. This wooded valley was the first home of Cappoquin Hurling Club and held a number of sites of archaeological interest. Glenshelane House (Private) nestles in its midst. Towards the north east of Glenshelane wood stands an old Iron Age lios (Private lands) at Cluttahina, further evidence of the prehistoric activity which dotted the landscape locally.



Belleville House

Belleville House (Private): Belleville was the early home of poet John Walsh, whose father was a steward here. In the 20th century, it was the home of the author of *Good Behaviour*, Molly Keane, who was married to a member of the Cappoquin House family. It was also the early childhood home of acclaimed movie director from the silent era, William Desmond Taylor. He was murdered in Hollywood in 1922.

The Earl's Stone: On the side of the Bóthar Garbh, the old route to Clonmel, stands the huge boulder thought to be the resting place of the wounded Earl of Desmond en route to Clonmel prison after the Battle of Affane.



The Earl's Stone.

Although moving well outside Cappoquin parish at this point, this adjoining area of Affane (also covered in Trails 4 and 5) has many natural links with Cappoquin. Beyond here lie Modeligo, Touraneena and other areas steeped in heritage, famed for Irish dancing, the Irish language and their natural beauty. Their heritage has been well charted elsewhere.



Just a note to add that, to the south, at 'new' Affane, stands the lovely local parish church, and the school house which served the community until its closure due to the rationalisation of the 1960s. Continuing past here brings one again to the site of the Battle of Affane further south.

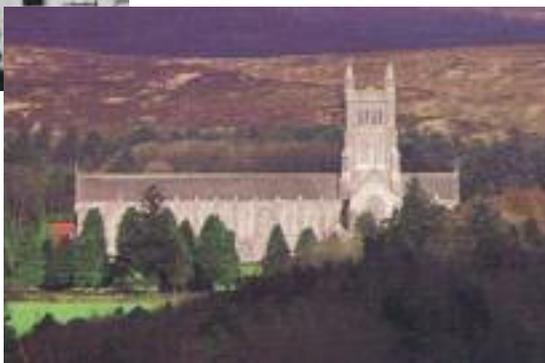
Affane schoolhouse.



Going back to the Monument outside Cappoquin and then taking the left or northern route, one now moves in the direction of **Mount Melleray**. The area itself is a marvellous mix of mountains and valleys, of woodlands and heather.

Left: The Old Forge at Melleray Bridge

A very popular Marian grotto stands beside Melleray bridge but the centrepiece of Mount Melleray is, of course, the Cistercian monastery which has stood on the mountain side for over 175 years. The school buildings here no longer stand, but the monastery's churches, café, shop and heritage centre are very well worth a visit.



Mount Melleray Abbey, a mid 20th century photograph

Acknowledgements

This first Cappoquin heritage guide has been an ongoing project of the Cappoquin Heritage Group since June 2006. In some respects, a heritage guide should always be seen as an ongoing project, never completed, always ready to acknowledge new elements of our area's past. We ask readers to accept that this is a first edition, a first attempt to provide a user-friendly guide to our place. We hope there will be a second edition, if not more than that, and will do everything possible to ensure that any omissions or errors will be rectified as things go on.

We would like to acknowledge the fantastic support we have been given locally in our efforts to develop this heritage trail. The generosity of Aidan Walsh in providing the stone plaques which identify many of the people and places on the trail is really beyond the level of fantastic. So too has been the time and talent of a number of artists, who did artwork for some of the lectern displays and are named on them. Seamus Ó Rodaigh, Antón Daltún and Fr. John Kiely assisted us hugely in translation work on the lectern displays. The skills of Arthur Butler, Michael O'Doherty and Jacinta Uniacke in creating the various display units are there for all to see, and we thank them greatly for their work also. The text of this booklet has been developed and edited by different members of the Heritage Group, with modern photography courtesy of group member, Helen McGrath. Where identifiable, other photographers have been credited individually.

Moving beyond Cappoquin, the practical help of Noel Healy, Paddy Walsh and the workers of Waterford County Council is very gratefully acknowledged. So too is the financial assistance of the Heritage Council, which part-funded elements of the work, including some publication costs of this booklet. Our printers, Modern Printers of Kilkenny, have become firm friends at this stage, not least because their work on our group's first publication, *Cappoquin: A Window on the Past*, helped to fund the major costs involved in setting up the group's operations.

Finally, we thank the people of Cappoquin and its surrounding areas. It is impossible to define where these surrounding areas end. We have generally, for the purposes of this booklet, confined things to the town, parish and river bend area. In doing so, we hope sincerely that we have not trespassed on the identity of any other place unduly, or that we have not omitted too much that should have been included in this first edition. In other respects, the Cappoquin area extends to Australia, the USA, Canada and many other places. We are also reminded that many new 'Cornerstone' dwellers have come from other places around the world and we hope this booklet helps to give them some flavour of what Cappoquin is all about too.

As Cappoquin Heritage Group comes under the umbrella of Cappoquin Civic Link, readers can find more details on our activities at www.cappoquin.net.