

ABOUT THIS BOOK

THE STORY OF KILMALLOCK is the story of one of the most interesting of our old historic towns. From being an early monastic site Kilmallock grew to be one of the richest and most prosperous inland towns in medieval Ireland, a busy centre of trade, having strong commercial links with the port towns of Cork and Limerick. It stood on the main route between these two cities, and also on the main route from places like Cashel and Tipperary to Connello and Kerry. Literally it stood at the crossroads of Munster. Strongly walled, with corner towers and four main gates, and with many splendid mansions of hewn stone, Kilmallock became the chief town of the Munster Geraldines, their fortress town; and it was to share in the tragedy of their fall.

The swift decay of Kilmallock from the end of the 17th century onwards has no parallel in the history of Irish towns. By the end of the 18th century its trade had been practically annihilated, and to the traveller it presented an extraordinary sight, that of a town of noble ruins, described by one traveller as "the Baalbek of Ireland".

This book tells the story of Kilmallock and district from prehistoric times to the present day, and captures all the moments of high drama that were part of the history of this old, war-battered Co. Limerick town. The well known and the lesser known crowd its pages: Gerald, last Earl of Desmond; James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald, Perrott, Dominican friars, Rinuccini, the Duke of Berwick, the Cromwellian Olivers and Cootes, Gaelic poets, Whiteboys, Fenians, Land Leaguers, the men of the War of Independence, hurlers, weight throwers, and many more. There are sections on placenames, the historic ruins, the lore of the district, industrial enterprises, etc., and there are songs and ballads, and many pictures and maps.

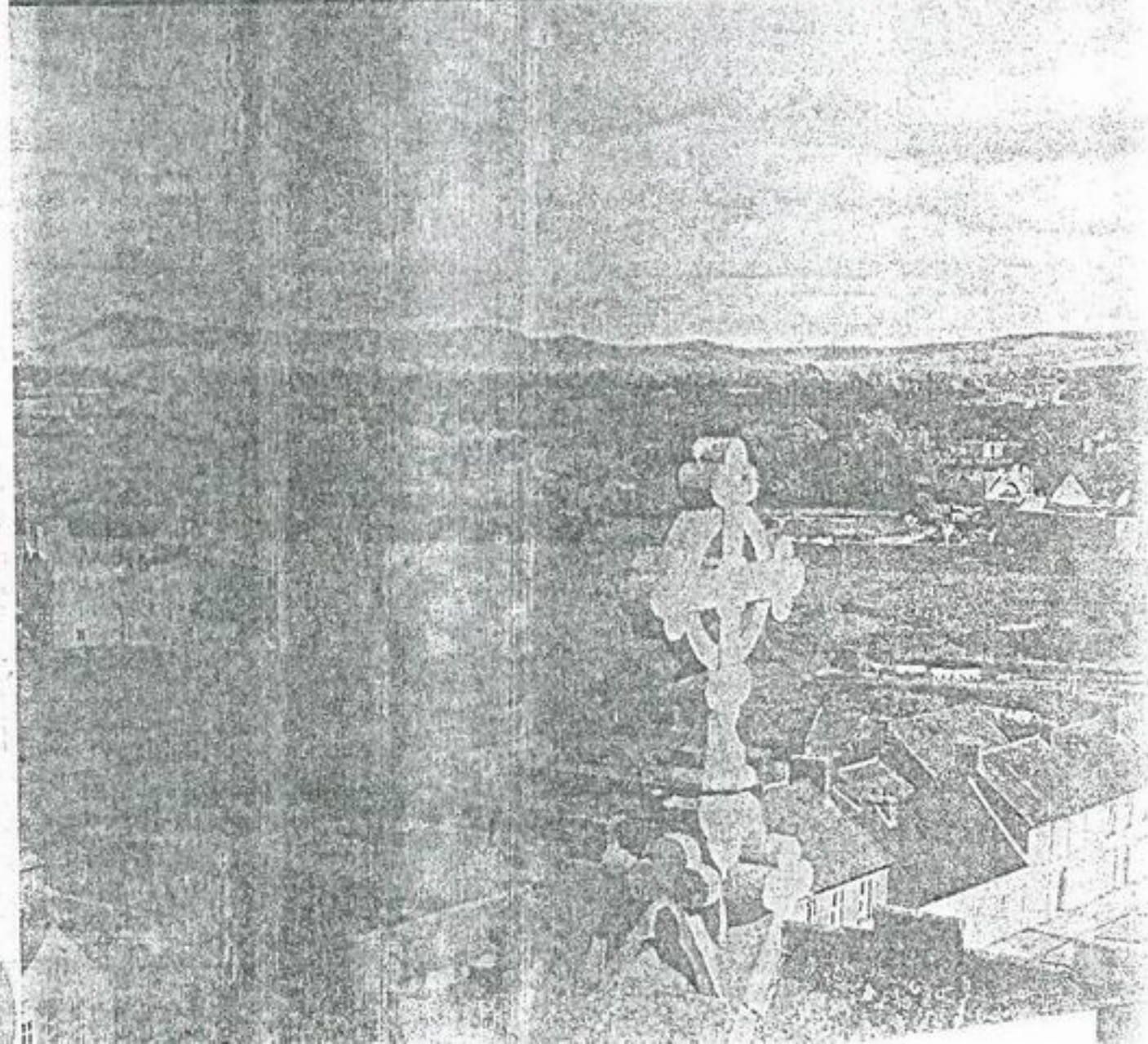
The story of Kilmallock, as told in this book, is set against the background of Irish history, and so becomes part of the story of Ireland.

The Story of Kilmallock

By Mainchín Seoighe

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KILMALLOCK

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Books by the same author:

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