

KING Achadh Brónaeth
VISITORS TO CASTLEISLAND

N.L.I.

1686 Humphrey Owen's account of the Seigniory. MS 7861

The market Town of Castleisland is situated in a fair valley not distant 2 miles from the western bounds of the Seigniory (River Maine) etc

X The Town is indifferently well built and has a fair church in it. New mansion of His Lordship to the west of the town. barracks proposed

1687 Sir Richard Cox, a visitor to Castleisland in 1687, referred to "A Market Town commonly known by the name Island of Kerry, though the name is Castleisland."

1733 1756 Sir Charles Smith p. 91

In Castleisland are a decent parish church, a good parsonage house, a foot barrack, a session + market house¹⁷⁴⁷ with a handsome assembly room for dancing.

There are some tolerable inns here

1774 J.C. Pleydell KOS 17

Castleisland, tho' situated in the midst of a large flat marshy tract, stands on a sheet of rock which forms the pavement of one broad street but indifferently built, which is all the town at present consists of. There are some ruins of a castle with a bridge and good barracks for two companies.

1776 Francis Gray's Directory of Munster^{p.12} Some Everyday Building

The Town of Castleisland has 150 business listings and 29 Trade listings.

~~1597~~ Holmes (HOK 69)

The ruins of the Castle were extensive and show that it had been a place of great strength and consequence.

1687 Sir Richard Cox (HOK 69) ~~SEB 9~~

The Herberts had later built a pretty, but small, house for their residence, not far from the old stronghold.

~~SEB 9~~ Referred to "A Market Town, commonly known by the name Island of Kerry, though the name is Castleisland."

~~1583~~ Nicholas White (HOK 69)

"We went to view the Island, which is a high, monstroous castle, of many rooms, but very filthy and full of cow-dung"

1782 Castleisland had no volunteers

16 M0179129.1

Tralee Corps, Killarney Foresters, Milltown Fusiliers, Lave Rangers,
Neddeens Corps, Ballynagallott Corps, Kerry Legion, Garsbora Corps
Clanmairice Cavalry & Woodford Rangers,

2

1782 RHK TFo Sullivan 98

1782 p.98 No Volunteer Corps in Castle Island

1843 1833-4 Returns related To the Yeomanry Corps Ireland

Corps at Ballyheigue + Ballylongford Elmsgrove
Blennerville, Feale, Kenmare Killarney Milltown Tarbert
Tralee Valentia Turnackery.
None in Castle Island

1797 George Holmes KOS 19

We had the pleasure of seeing before us the low country stretching into a far extended fertile vale with the village of Castle Island cheering us with a thousand comforts, which the Tired Traveller never fails to anticipate. However, before we reached the village, we encountered another torrent of rain. We were very much disgusted in our idea of Castle Island .. it is wild, poor and neglected, without any trade whatsoever and, I believe, totally supported by the passage of travellers to Tralee, the assizes town, and visitors to the Lakes of Killarney ; still, it has many remains of its ancient population. The assizes were originally held here, but since their removal to Tralee, this village has gradually sunk into decay. The town house is roofless : it was once a respectable building. The barracks are large and in tolerable repair but uninhabited.

1800 Charles O'Brien agricultural report of 1800 JKAHS 1.89

The markets for grain are Tralee, Dingle, Milltown, Killarney and Listowel ; tho' there are others, there seems to be none bought at them, nor do the country people assemble in any numbers on market days in any of them.

of present agriculture from Castle Island by R. Halloran

1850 Tralee

RK agricultural Report

All of the land has been partitioned off except those central 200 acres which continue undivided and from the middle of a road being generally one of the 6 proprietors who, a long time ago, drop, were each entitled to a share of the land to enclose, the remainder of the land being divided among the various proprietors, and the land being in fields.

1791 (2)

Stranger in Ireland
A tour in the S. & W. part of that country 1805

1806

John Carr **SEB 10** Some Everyday Buildings in Castleisland p.10
 described Castleisland as "a large town in a state of rapid decay, owing, as I am informed, to a dispute among the proprietors regarding the division of their respective interests.. only the shell of a Market House and Assembly Rooms remains.

1829

Richard Griffith's Report q.96 April 1829
 In the year 1822 the town of Castleisland in the Co. of Kerry, situated at the western termination of the new road from Newcastle in the County Limerick, bore the most unequivocal signs of poverty in its inhabitants; the houses were universally dilapidated, and the windows and roofs broken: There was no inn (at least none deserving of the name) and no shop could supply anything beyond a farthing candle and a pennyworth of tobacco, and the street presented a mass of uneven rock, resembling a quarry rather than a road, and was nearly impassable for wheel-carriages. Within the last 4 years a great number of new houses have been built, all of which are 2 stories in height, are slated and otherwise well finished, among which is an excellent inn; several shops have also been established, at which clothing of all kinds, and groceries, can be purchased at moderate rates. The street has been levelled, formed, and an excellent road made, with footpaths on each side, neatly curbed with cut limestone.

1836

British Parliamentary Papers 1836 (315) No 47 613

At present, the intercourse from Castle Island by Kingwilliamtown to Cork is not considerable

1840

Poor Law
Tralee Union



Agricultural Report

... all of which has been partitioned off except those central 600 acres which continue undivided and from the circumstances of a man being generally one of the proprietors, when a lease happens to drop, none can be legally made of a sufficient term to encourage the improvement of the town and its environs, which is glaringly exhibited by its general appearance, and by its market house being in ruins.

pre 1845

T.W. Freeman Pre Famine Ireland p. 235-6

Castledland, in this lowland 12 miles to the east had lost its assizes to Tralee and its markets had gone though it had several fairs.

Though destined to remain small, it had profited by the building of various new roads, especially those in the upland towards Abbeyfeale.

Tralee 11363	Dingle 3386	Castledland 1687	Kenmare
Killarney 7127	Listowel 2598	Caherciveen 1492	

1837

Lewis' Directory 1837

The total number of houses in 1831 was 266, several of which are really built of limestone and, since the construction of the government road, several additional houses have been erected.

1838

Tracing your Kerry Ancestors (1990) p. 69

To alleviate the severe distress of the poor in Ireland and Britain, the Poor Law Act of 1838 provided funds to construct and run workhouses in which the poor were housed and fed.

Poor Law Unions

Caherciveen, Dingle, Glin, Kenmare, Sneem Dispensary Killarney, Listowel, Tralee

Castledland was part of the Tralee Union.

1845

Slater's Directories 1846 1856 1870 1881

Castledland possesses little or no trade in consequence of its contiguity to its more thriving neighbour Tralee.

1867 Castledland not involved in the Fenian Rising.

1878 National Bank

1904 Cork & Munster Trade Directory

1751 (4)