

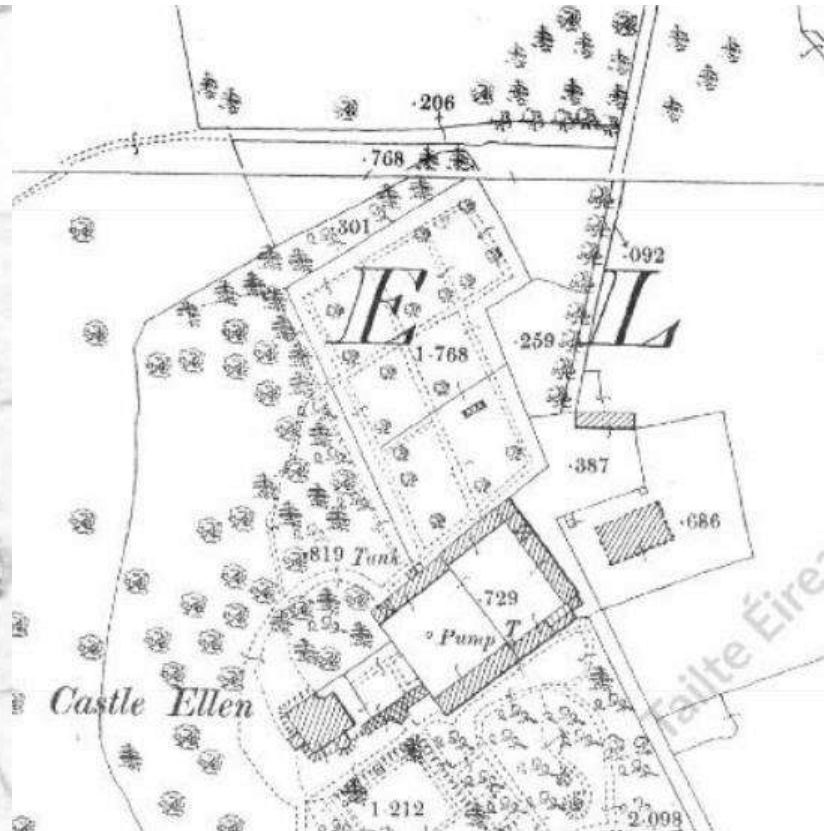
CASTLE ELLEN



I located Castle Ellen Orchard through surveying OSI maps and a box of apples brought to me by a friend.

I was aware of the valuable work that Michael Keaney has done for preserving Galway City's built Heritage and he saved many buildings and landmarks from destruction, preserving them for the future and current generations to enjoy.

Below shows OSI Townland Map Viewer Six Inch (1st Series) 1829-1842 & 25 Inch maps (1897- 1913), & current Satellite imagery





Varieties identified:

Brown Crofton, Mère De Menage (Aherne Beauty), King of the pippins (Reine De Reinette), Bittersweet Cider apple (unidentified), Duke of Devonshire, Orleans Reinette (fell down rotted- cutting taken in 2023)



Michael Kearney

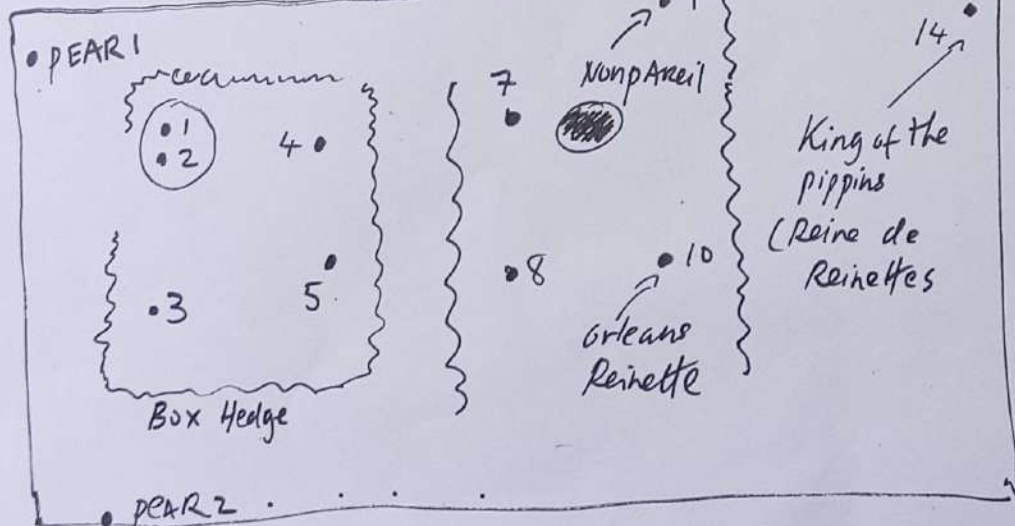
CASTLE ELLEN ORCHARD

20/10/23

Alison Boyd

There are three, maybe four
samples of historic
French varieties.

- Mère de Menage,
- Reine de Reinettes
- Orleans Reinette
- Nonpareil
- one interesting self-rooting
cider apple



VARIETIES IDENTIFIED

① - Mère de Menage
(AHERN Beauty)

② - BRAMLEY → Both 1 + 2
grafted on
same tree

③ - CIDER Apple
long conical astringent
(self-rooter)

4. No fruit seen

5. COX'S POMONA

6. No fruit

7. LODDINGTON?

8. no fruit

9. ~~King of the pippins~~ Nonpareil

10. ORLEANS REINETTE

11, 12. no fruit

13 - greenhous pippin/crab?

14. KING OF THE PIPPINS
← REINE DE REINETTES

Brown Crofton (Ireland 1800's)

Exists in Irish Seed Savers Collection, I've never seen an old sample growing in Ireland



Duke of Devonshire (U.K. 1835)







Mère De Ménage (France & Belgium 1700's)



Reine de Reinettes- King of the Pippins

(France 1700's)





Unidentified cider
apple
(bittersweet type)





Why is it important to find, document and preserve old apple varieties within our locality?

- Veteran trees have inherent life experience; Folklore, History and a connection to the past, instances of local varieties and on occasion "lost" variety. Many trees survive from 19th Century.
- They are a living connection to our past, often trees are the last link to particular families that have long died out (e.g. Landed estates). Trees survive over a century and are a living archive.
- Some of the varieties at Castle Ellen are historic varieties from France and Europe, very few exist in National Collections. A number of the varieties are in Irish Seed Savers Association's orchards (Although collected in other parts of Ireland)
- The cider apple is a bittersweet variety, very old and couldn't be identified. This may be possible through getting funding to DNA test the variety.
- Are an example of our "Intangible cultural Heritage";
- *can be understood as “living heritage” examples include, oral traditions, songs, knowledge of natural spaces, foods, traditions, cultural practices.* [UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage \(site\)](#)
- Trees meet demise through modern pressures; trees witness destruction through chainsaw & land development clearance
- The trees at Castle Ellen reflect Michael's passion for preservation of our Heritage

References:

- <https://www.fruitid.com/#main>
- Geohive Map Viewer
- <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3ae19cc156bf4706a929304bf8fcc4f6>
- Irish Seed Savers Association