



Chamber's Photograph Album Collection

GPC/9/5

**Valentia and The Skellings,
Co. Kerry, 1938**

Galway County Council Archives

VALENTIA

AND

THE SKELLIGS

1938

GP9/5

Galway County Council Archives



From the heights of
Valentia: Knights
Town and Cahirceeven

Cahirceeven and our Boat on left.

This is the last town on the mainland
of Kerry.

Looking from the heights of Valentia
to Knight's Town with the mainland
and Cahirceeven in distance.

Another view from the heights of Valentia.

From the heights of Valentia, showing
Beginnis Island.



3
From the heights of
Valentia; looking
inland.



4
Beginnis and harbour.



5

Cahirceeven: On the mainland.
Town and port for Valentia



6

Knights Town. Valentia. The Land end of the
Atlantic Cable.

The Lighthouse. Valentia.

A Chasm.

Twisted strata.



7



8



9



10

Lynch's house (where I stayed) and his boat-building
Shed.

View from my bedroom in Lynch's house.

John Lynch.

Mrs Lynch.



My Host. John Lynch.



12



13

Father Lynch and Pat cleaning the nets.



14

The Lynch Children do their home-work.

Pat Lynch takes the donkey-cart to Knight's Town.

(The tree is not growing in the cart!)

Zhonny makes himself a model boat.

15



16





17



18

Council Archives

One of the "Crew" helps at the excavations.

We all go out fishing in the evening.

The disused Slate Quarry.



19

The Village of the Slate Quarry.



20



21



22

Council Archives

The Shrine of the Island Saint. St Derera.

(Note the votive images.)

The House of the Broken Man.

One of the Dancing-platforms found at the Cross Roads
on Valentia.

A Valentia Stile and the entrance to the Domain
of the Knight of Kerry.

23



24





25



26

Figs. (Obviously!)

Geese. (Equally obvious!)

Fortified gate and wall on Mainland. Portmagee.

Portmagee. On Mainland opposite Valentia.

27



28





29



30

Council Archives

Our Expedition starts for the Skelligs.

The Long-boat going out to the Launch.

The Skellig Rocks in the distance.

The Lesser Skellig with its great colony of Gannets.

The Lesser Skellig, the white marks being the droppings
of the Gannets.





33



34

Skellig Michael, from Boat.
The Monastery is on top, slightly to left.

The Cat Hole and Landing-place on Skellig Michael.

Our Launch at the Landing-stage.



35



36



37



38

The Pathway around
Skellig Michael

The Pathway,
showing the
"Weeping Woman"
and the
Lesser Skellig.

The Pathway.



39

The Lighthouse.



40



41



42

Cliffs seen from Lighthouse.

The "Path of the Saints" being 650 steps from
the Sea to the Monastery. Built about the fifth
Century.

The "Weeping Woman"



43



44

The "Path" going up from the "Saddle of Christ."



45



46

Where the "Path of the Saints" ends outside the
Monastery.

Inside the Monastery Garden, showing the Bee-hive Cells

The Bishop's Grave.

The Bishop's Cell.



47



48



49



50

Council Archives

One of the many Graveyards.

The Cell of Penance, outside the Monastery enclosure.

All that is left of the Church of St Michael
built at a much later period.

51



Another general view of the Monastery.





53

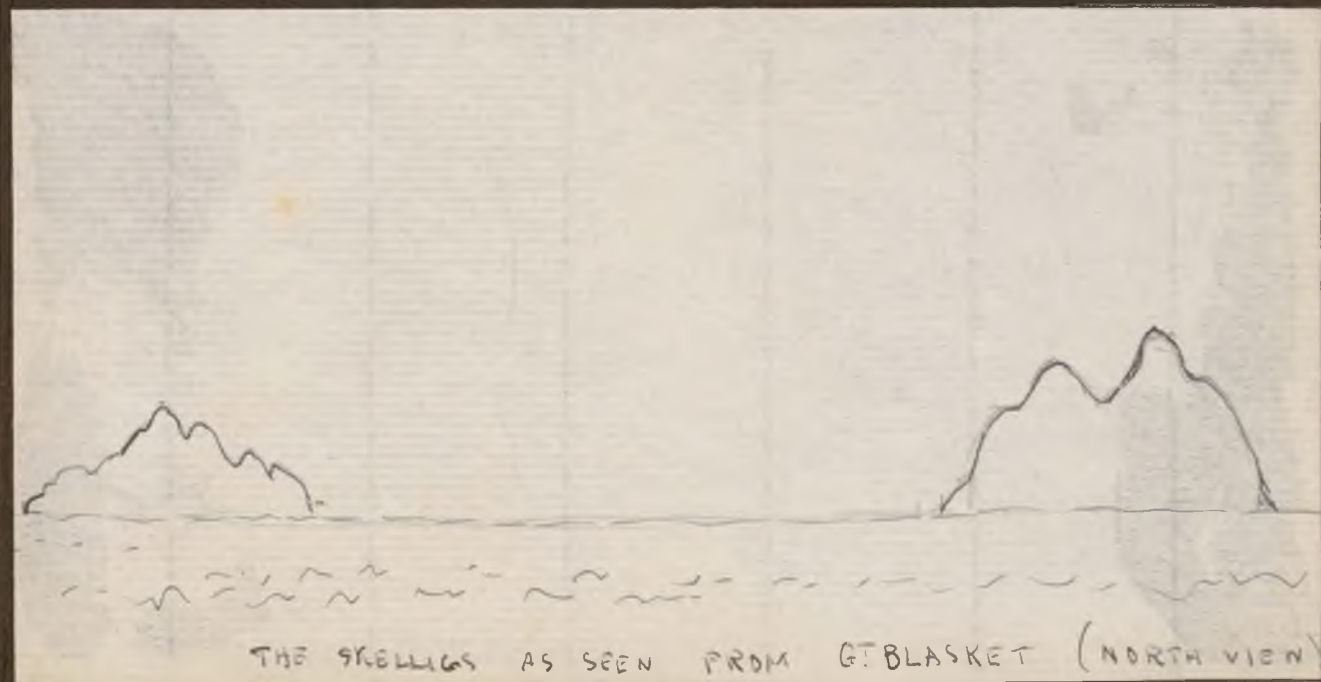


54

I leave Valentia for the Blaskets.

Passing the Lighthouse on our way to the Blaskets.

The Bishop's Cell.



THE SKELLIGS AS SEEN FROM GIBLASKET (NORTH VIEW)

G.P.9/5



THE SKELLIGS lie eight miles out to the west from the Kerry headlands.
Original sketch by W.A.C. from Derrynane Bay (18 miles away), reproduced in colour by H.H.T.



Beehive cells, and on the right the ruins of a small Chapel of a later date.

Photograph by R.T.C., 1930

The Great Skellig is half a mile long, about a quarter of a mile wide and 704 feet high. On the high eastern part of the rock are the remains of an early Christian monastic establishment consisting of a walled enclosure, solid and unbroken after the lapse of many centuries, though built of dry masonry. The highest peak is named the Needle's Eye or Spit. On top is a small platform and breast work of dry masonry in the form of a horse-shoe, erected by the monks as a place of prayer.

"Coast of Ireland Pilot", 4th edition, 1893

The Monastery on the Great Skellig is dedicated to St. Michael. The date of foundation is unknown, possibly sixth century. Raided by the Danes in early ninth century, when the abbot was taken prisoner (*Annals of Ulster*, A.D. 825). The settlement was abandoned about the fourteenth century for a newly built monastery at Ballinskellig, on the mainland.

The Abbot's cell on the left, with white stones (quartz) in the form of a cross built in as part of the structure.



Photograph by C.C., 1930

The buildings consist of a small church, two oratories, two wells of good water and six clochans, or beehive cells, the dry stone structure being the most perfect of its kind. 620 steps lead up to the settlement from the lighthouse path; the remaining way to the spit is a rough rocky climb made easier by some hand and foot holds carved by the monks; a wonderful view from the little oratory on the top.

The Little Skellig looks strangely white when seen from a distance, but this is explained when we know that it is the most important breeding station of the gannet on the Irish coast.

*Refer to "Notes on Irish Architecture" by Earl Dunraven, Vol. 1 (1875)
"Early Christian Architecture in Ireland" by Margaret Stokes (1878)
"In the Kingdom of Kerry" by Richard Hayward (1946)*

GALLERUS ORATORY

On the Dingle Peninsula, halfway between Brandon Mountain and Dunmore Head. Date unknown, seventh century suggested. One of the most perfect of the early Christian buildings. The stones in the doorway and in the little round east window are wrought. Otherwise the natural stones are fitted together, no trace of mortar. The perfect detail of this stone work can be better realised in the photograph if a magnifying glass is used.

“One is lost in admiration at the devotion and skill shown in the building of this little shrine, so typical of the missionary zeal of those early followers of Christ who first came to preach and to live His message of goodwill.”



Gallerus Oratory and J.C. 1914



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GP 1/5

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Skellig Michael Road & Lighthouse

REAL PHOTO BY MASON, DUBLIN.

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