

Local Legends by Sean Crowley (Bawnfune)

The following story is from
The late Sean Crowley's book

Hazelwood
Twopothouse
A Rural Community Remembers

Local Legends - Bawnfune

The town land to the north of the river facing Kilfadda is named Knockanaar, the 'Hill of Slaughter' and the whole valley is credited with being the site of a famous battle in the second century of the Christian era. According to the old legend the King of Greece and his wife Queen Aile wished to marry their daughter, Meamh to Taile Mac Treoin. Meamh objected to the marriage and appealed to Fionn and the Fianna to save her from it. The Fianna at that time were feasting on the Hill of Knockanaar, which overlooks Doneraile town. They marched to Bawnfune, 'Fionn's Lawn' to the south of Cahirmee, where Fionn pitched his camp. Queen Aile had her court on the west bank of the Bregogue, at a place that, because of this, was called 'An Cuir,' the present Old Court. Battle was joined near Doneraile, and raged all along the north bank of the Awbeg, to Knockanaar Hill. Here Meamh was killed. On the brow of the river to the west of Cahirmee Bridge there is a fox covert and its centre is well marked on the ordnance maps as St. Winifred's Well. This was originally named Tobar Braca Ordha, 'The Well of the Golden Harrow.' The wounded in battle were bathed by the Druids in this well with such miraculous effect that they were in perfect health next day. After the battle the Druids covered the well with a golden harrow and earth, and centuries elapsed before it was again uncovered. The Fort of Cahirmee is said to be the burial ground of the dead of the Fianna. The King of Greece and his two sons, Ciardan and Leagan sleep under the haunted mount of Knockanaar na mPuachaille on the top of Knockanaar. Victory finally lay with the Fianna.