

**Listed below are some of the finds discovered in the townland of Dreenan in the 1800s**

[Ancient Churns](#)  
[Ancient Silver](#)  
[Brass Halbert](#)  
[Wooden Ladle](#)

[Old Butter](#)  
[Giants Grave](#)  
[Quern Stones](#)  
[Charcoal](#)  
[Wooden Vessels](#)

[Ancient Yew Tree](#)  
[Forts](#)  
[Human Skeleton](#)  
[Stair-na-calleen](#)

**Ancient churns**, 2 of which had been discovered in 1834, 3 feet under the surface of Dreenan flow bog by John Tamney, and were at the time in his possession but all broken except the lid. These churns have been cut out of the solid piece of trees. The largest churn was 1 foot in diameter and 1 foot 1 inch deep. The other is similar in shape but much smaller: the lid is 1 foot in diameter with a hole through which the handle of the dash passes, and 2 smaller holes in which 2 handles were put. The lid also was in the possession of John Tamney in Dreenan. 2 handles were placed one at each side of the churn with 2 small holes in each, through which small rods as hoops were found.

John (Mc)Tamney died 20th Apr 1885 leaving his land to his wife Ellen and son Patrick

Michael Denin of Dreenan, in laboring in his holding in the above townland in 1835, got about 1 foot beneath the surface 2 small pieces of **Ancient Silver Coin** like items. They had markings on them that could not be read by any who inspected them, "as it was done in a language foreign to this country language." Unfortunately the coins had been subsequently destroyed.

**A Brass Halbert** found about 1 foot beneath the surface in 1836 in Dreenan by Bernard O'Neill, in whose house it stands at present in the above townland.

An old **Wooden Ladle** cut out of the solid piece of black oak, 14 inches in diameter at the spoon part and 6 inches deep: the handle is 18 inches long and the ladle about 2 stone weight. Discovered in 1833 near the verge of Dreenan moss by Hugh O'Neil and was at the time in his possession, and is like a knob or knot of oak.

Also a quantity of **Old Butter** deposited in a wooden vessel and found in 1833 in the moss in townland of Dreenan by Mrs. McAtamney of Dreenan

On a small eminence in the townland of Dreenan, and holding of Stafford McCan, there stands an ancient grave composed of earth and stones and locally called a **Giant's Grave**. It is 12 feet long, 3 feet broad and about 6 inches above the surface, with a quantity of stones and a haw bush at one end of it. It was never explored.

In the neighborhood of the above grave there was found beneath the surface at some former period **3 sets of Quern-Stones**, some of which still remain in the townland and are similar to others before described.

A number of small clumps or hillocks resembling the clump at the roots of trees, all of **Charcoal** in small lumps, on the right of the road leading from Gulladuff to Portglenone, in the townland of Dreenan. The place appears to have been a natural wood which appear to have been burned in these small piles. Convenient to these clumps, at the opposite side of the river, there is an **Ancient Yew Tree** which is supposed to have been the last of the trees with which this place was originally planted. At the time the tree was 10 feet in circumference round the trunk.

Trees planted at John Downing's house in Dreenan were planted in 1817 and registered by the proprietor John Downing.

In the Island there is a **Fort** of earth and stones on a rocky hill near a stream and ancient yew tree in the townland of Dreenan. This fort is 75 feet in diameter. The parapet is of stones 3 feet high and 3 feet broad. The entrance at the east and west side is undisturbed, as so is the whole fort.

About 100 perches north of this fort, in the same townland, there is **another Fort** of earth and stones, but demolished except a few yards of the parapet at the north west side, which is all composed of small stones and a few old hawthorn bushes. In the digging up of the trench of this fort at the north side, a **Human Skeleton** of a large size was discovered about 30 years ago by Neil Britain and dug up by Rodger Henry, on Hartfoot Downing's farm, and was deposited in the same place from whence it was taken.

**Stair-na-calleen** is a large platform situated in the face of a rock in the townland of Dreenan. This platform is 5 feet broad, 10 feet long at the back and 9 feet high. From the ground to the platform is 10 feet high and is called Stair-na-callen or "**The Girl's Chair**", from 2 females named Downey who were the occupiers of this farm at the time and who used to stand frequently on the platform

**2 Ancient Wooden Vessels** were found in the year 1834 under a flow bog in the townland of Dreenan Nothing but small fragments now remain. They were hollowed from the trunk of a tree. They were about 1 foot broad and 1 foot deep, covered with circular lids having a small hole through the centre of each.

**(Thanks to the O. S. Memoirs), along with some other notes and records.**