



Loomerana to
Moneygall Parish

Looking North towards
Loomerana from
Devil's Bit Mountain

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Upper Ormond.

TOWN OR VILLAGE Toomevara PARISH Toomevara COUNTY Tipperary

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Toomevara is an extensive irregular parish at the tip of Offaly's southern salient into Co. #Tipperrary. From the Devil's Bit Mt. it is ^{scattered} 9 miles N-W. into the north Tipperrary plain to the Ollatrium River. Its western boundary is within 3 1/2 mls. of Henagh & Offaly borders it in the East. In the S.E. the parish runs to the top of the Devil's Bit & its attendant mts. from the Offaly border to Knockanora Hill. The northern half of the parish, to Toomevara village, in ~~the~~ centre on the Kimerish Dublin Road, (Contd Page 3)

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

The northern district of the parish is a limestone district. South from Toomevara village to the mountains, gravel & sand may be noticed as well as limestone & shale quarries. Up towards the Devil's Bit a coarse grit stone is found. The summit of the Devil's Bit is a long ridge of coarse grit with a white pebble through it.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

None

None of these ruins are in the hands of
Public Works.
ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raths, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Toomevara Priory:

Within a few yards of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in the village of Toomevara is the ruin of an early 14th Cent. church belonging to the old Augustinian Abbey of St. Mary a daughter foundation of Monasterevin Priory near Roscrea.

The west gable & about 60 ft. of both sidewalls remain but all trace of the east gable is gone. It is about 22 ft. wide & the walls 4 ft. thick built of hammered greenstone. It was rectangular. In the S. wall near the W. gable is a ~~stone~~ pointed doorway dressed on the outside with cut limestone & ~~round~~ round-arched on the inside, it is 7 ft x 3 ft 6 ins. Nine feet from the ground in the west gable is a window measuring about 8 ft. by 4 ft. & pointed both inside & out. It has a pointed hood-mould & the framework of cut sandstone is intact but the mullions are gone. In the north wall is a small slit like window of cut limestone square on the inside & pointed outside.

Though coated with ivy the walls are fairly sound.

A slate set ^{in the south wall} ~~into the~~ about 4 ft. from the ground bears an inscription in abbreviated Latin in commemoration of a member of the O'Meara family who ^{was} for many years, warden of the priory. It is difficult to decipher but the following text & translation appear in History of the Elphinstone by Fr. Gleeson, P. 469: "Clara Meara dum Tamulo pater hanc propago, Cui aether Precibus Pande, Victor iter Gulielmo — undecipherable — Helene Bure Pande Cuius iter-illa via me Ritis stravit sedes Terra ex apert marmor en hanc lee Tor nit Tibi testis Or, 1664. Edmnd Wals."

Translation: "While the renowned offspring of O'Meara reposes in this tomb. To whom, O Traveller happily open Heaven by thy prayer. To William. To Ellen Bourke open Heaven. By the merits of his blood he made possible that path. He snatched thrones from earth. Let this marble be a witness to thee O reader, 1664 lead forth for evil."

Another remarkable memorial to be seen beside the above is a sandstone slab on end with an battered inscription in alleged Hebrew. The inscription is round the borders of the stone ^{inside which} on the upper half of the space is the raised carving of a plain cross & underneath a crude ~~sandstone~~ has relief of a life size head (see photo on file forwarded with report)

[See Page 4.]

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

Topography (contd.)

is flat and fertile but not very populous - a typical grazing district. South & S.E. of Toomevara the ground rises in a succession of foothills to the mts. chief heights in which taken from north to south are: - Berrisnoe (1512) Knockaroge (1472) Kilduff (1463) Devils Bit (1577), Fortagarry (1521) & Knockanora (1421). The quality of the land varies in this district but is fairly good on the whole. There are now ~~no~~ ~~of~~ big farms here such as may be seen in the northern part of the parish.

Views:

From the Devils Bit: The Devils Bit is most easy of ascent from the south - Templemore direction where there is a pathway up to the gap in the great ridge of rock which forms its summit, the legendary explanation of which gives the mountain its name. It is, however, not very difficult to reach the gap from the northern side provided one avoids the heath & strikes to the narrow strip of grass and rock which reaches to the gap ~~by~~ ^{from} the townland of Ballinverey. From the summit one looks south over a vast & colourful carpet of ~~after~~ varied shades of green & brown, ~~with~~ with a dark clapping of woodland and cloud shadows, to the blue grey pile of Slieve Donard. In the foreground the town of Templemore looks like a tiny village and Thurles Cathedral may be picked out slightly to the right of it. To the S.W. the Slieve Donard hills form a weaving skyline stretching away into Co. Kilkenny & to the west ~~is~~ an even horizon limits the broad plain stretching deep into Leix. To the North-East the brown summits of neighbouring hills limits the view. ~~Turning~~ ^{To the north & north west} is another magnificent panorama. Immediately below perspective ~~the~~ transforms the little hills into a valley, the green pastures of which creep up the broad lower slopes of its bounding mountains to fade into the dark brown heath that clothes the summits. Into the distance stretches a broad chequered plain stretching away beyond Lough Derg into Galway. Beyond ~~the~~ steel grey ribbon of L. Derg, stretching up to Portumna, may be seen the Slieve Donard Mts., on the Clare-Galway border which fade in behind the Ana mts. due west. Compensatively near to the W. & S.W. are the tossing brown waves of the Slieve Folin ~~to~~ and Silvermine Mts. presided over by Keeper Hill & Mankershiel or Mother Mts. South of them is the

Village: Toomevara

Upper Ormond
Parish: Toomevara

County: Tipperary

TOPOGRAPHY (contd.)

him distance is the rugged barrier of the Kerry Mts. stretching round to fade in behind the Galtie Mountains which, reaching away behind Clivenamon, complete the circuit. Templemore is the most convenient town from which to do the Devil's Bit - it is an all-day job from here.

The ~~general~~ GLENAGYLE District at the foot of the mountains is picturesque. Its frequent little hills are well wooded, with farmhouses nestling in their folds or in coniferous shelterbelts on the lower slopes of the mountains. Though hilly the roads are reasonably good in dry weather.

Cycling: A nice day's run from Nenagh would be to the Devil's Bit via Toomevara and Aghinacree (church, town, castle). Kilkenny, Genanstown, (R. D'Alton Williams), Toomevara, & back via Knockane & Ballyneeky castles would also provide a good cycle run from Nenagh.

Toomevara PrioryAntiquities (contd.)

A church was founded at Toomevara by St. Donnan in the 7th Cent. About 1050 a stone church was built by Donogh O'Meara, the local chieftain. The first historical mention of the Augustinian foundation here is a petition by the Warden of the Priory concerning Aghinacree Parish church in 1325. It was not the foundation of a house but of Irish monks and was governed by a warden, usually belonging to the great local family of O'Meara. A mandate from the Pope in 1397 freed them from the Canons Regular of Monasteriacha "and their chapel at Thom (Toomevara) for 30 years from payment of all episcopal dues to the Bishop of Killaloe & ~~to~~ ^{to} them under the immediate protection of Rome as they were "on account of the evil dispositions in those parts... so weighed down by poverty..." (extract from quotation as given in "Moha," 1940, p. 31) From 1441 to 1443 the Priory figured in the Papal Courts during a dispute between the O'Mearas and a Henry Houghman (or Moloughney) concerning the Warden's ship. In 1450 ~~to~~ a neighbouring parish Killyderadrum (now in T.V.M.) was brought under the priory to which it became of the expense of repairs due to "burning in consequence of the wars & other sinister events which have long afflicted these parts in times past." (quotation as given in "Moha," 1940, p. 32). As the O'Mearas were lieges of the Earl of Ormond the monastery held out for some time after the Reformation. An order of the Lord Deputy & Council in 1541 absolved the institution from

Village: Toomevara

Barony: Upper Ormond

Parish: Toomevara

County: Tipperary

Antiquities (Contd.)

Toomevara Priory

dissolution as the King would have "littell or no profit"; as it was situated among the "Irish"; and as the Warden Donald O'Meara was building a castle there to "resist the Irishmen" & defend the King's subjects. In 1551, however, it was surrendered to the crown & the then Warden Matthew O'Meara given a pension of £4 per annum.

In 1547 it is mentioned in the grant of a large tract of land in the district of Miles Macrath, apostate Archbishop of Cashel. (situated on church property)

Old Ruin in Toomevara village:

In the centre of the triangle formed by the streets of Toomevara village is an old ruin identified by District Justice Gleeson (Molua 1940) as the "remains of a ruined castle ~~thatched~~ with certain ruined chambers thatched" mentioned with the Priory of Toomevara mentioned in Miles Macrath's grant from Queen Elizabeth in 1547. It consists of a long wall (nearly 40 ft) about 12 ft. high & about 3½ ft. thick. Near one end is a flat arched doorway. A little square annex at the door end of the wall is of later erection & the walls of it are only about 6 ft high. Parallel to the long wall runs what appears to be the foundation of a wall as if the whole were of one rectangular building. It is in a small brick ground.

72 J. Gleeson (Hist. of Ely O'Connell 1915) says that this "seems to be" the church erected by Donogh O'Meara in 1050 & O'Donogh described it as "the ruins of the old church of Toomevara." The only architectural feature of assistance in the wall is the doorway 8 ft x 4 ft. The flat arch is built of long flatish stones inserted perpendicularly & grouted. (situated on church property)

References: "Toomevara Priory" in ~~issue~~ 1940 issue of "Molua" Order of association of C.F. Gregory - a paper by D. F. Gleeson, M.C., M.A., D.A. (Dist. Justice); "Hist. of the Ely O'Connell Territory" by Rev. John Gleeson (M. H. Gill, 1915), p. 457-69; "Lost Hords of Ormond"; D. F. Gleeson (Eldred & Ward, London) 1938.

Castlewellington or Killowney Castle:

At Castlewellington in the Ballynagney end of the parish is a fifteenth Cent. castle which is now adjoined by a ~~detached~~ 18th Cent. mansion.

~~It measures~~ It is a rectangular keep measuring 40 ft x 32 ft & is about 75 ft. high built of well hammered limestone & grouted. The walls are about 7½ ft. thick. It is entered by a pointed doorway dressed with well-cut limestone. Inside there is a sub of wall bellying with a door opening into the ground floor of the building and another into the spiral staircase which takes one to the

Antiquities

parapet or. top. On the corners are small semi circular turrets. Off the staircase open a number of passages or corridors within the thickness of the wall. The 3rd floor (it contains 5 storeys) is supported by an arch still intact and appears to have been built for habitation. There is a massive fireplace of cut limestone & it is the only floor on which the windows are other than loopholes. They are quadrangular with cusped heads. The oak portions of the oak beams of the first floor still remain.

It is in an unusually excellent state of repair.

It is sandwiched in between the old family building of Castlewellington House & the house itself.

It is situated on the north bank of the Ollatrium River about 5 miles from Nenagh & is reached by a long laneway from the county road & is on the property of Mr. Martin Slattery, Ballinree, Ballymackey, Nenagh.

It was a stronghold of the O'Kennedys & they held on to it down until the Cromwellian wars when it fell into the hands of a Capt. Stephen Allen.

Its old name was Killourney but a landlord named Wellington erected the neighbouring house & the name became Castlewellington. (Hist. by O'Connell P. 468 last words of Omond. Ps. 123-4 185, 192, 196, 233, 245)

Knockane Castle:

little inferior to Castlewellington from the point of view of preservation is Knockane Castle, a mile north of Toomevara Village in a field alongside the public road.

It is a rectangular keep standing alone in the field on high ground overlooking the Village.

It measures 34 ft. by 30 ft. with walls about 6 ft. thick & 65 or 70 ft. high with high pointed gables on E. & W. walls and a high tower of a chimney on top of the S. wall. It contains five storeys. The third floor being supported by an arch still intact. On this floor is the large fireplace & these windows are larger than in any other part of the building where they are no more than loopholes ~~and~~ ^{also} are dressed with cut ^{2nd} limestone. The pointed doorway leads into a small hall as in Castle Wellington & the spiral stairway of which open corridors within the thickness of the walls is in the N.-E. corner. There is a parapet around the top & openings in the gables as well as two small turrets on the N.-W. & S.-E. corners.

It is similar in style to Castle Wellington although ^{negligent} "Hist. of Ely O'Connell" says "Its architecture is of the 13th Cent" (P. 464) and says Wellington is 15th Cent. There appears to be little doubt that it is late 14th or 15th Cent. (last words of Omond P. 18) O'Donovan found a

Village: Toomevara

Parish: Toomevara

Co. Tipperary

Antiquities ~~Topography~~ (contd.)

tradition that it was built by the O'Kennedys.

It certainly belonged to the O'Neards in the 16th Cent. & seems to be situated in their territory ^{was there} & probably up to the Cromwellian Wars. (Last Eds. Ormond P. 129)

It stands within 100 yds. of the public road on the lands of Mrs R. O'Donoghue, ^{Knockanagh, Tipperary}

Ballymackey Castle:

2½ miles N. of Toomevara near Ballymackey Protestant Church is the ruin of the principal stronghold of the O'Neera family. It is on the lands of Mrs. Gleeson, Ballymackey, nearly a stand near her house, a laneway leading past it. It seems to have been the largest of the castles in the district but is now in a very ruinous state. It measures 49 by 38 ft & the walls are about 7 ft. thick though now little more than 3 ft. high. The north wall is completely gone leaving the ground floor - divided by a wall running the length of the building into two ft banell vaulted compartments connected by a doorway - open on that side. The pointed doorway is in the south side & from it runs a stairway though the thickness of the west wall which now only leads to the 1st floor the rest being broken. There are traces of a fine cut limestone fireplace on the remains of the third floor where the windows appear to have been large, though only gaping holes now remain. ~~On the~~ On the 1st floor are some small windows with rectangular cusped heads.

Adjoining on the south side are the remains of what appears to have been a fairly large residence of more recent date. Most of it was dynamited some years ago as it had become dangerous. It is believed that this castle was inhabited by ~~the~~ an O'Neera in the early 12th Cent. ~~but this is doubtful~~ & Miles Magrath acquired it for a son Brian through purchase of land from the O'Kennedys. The apostate Archbishop's ^{wife} ~~husband~~ was Aug O'Neera of Kissaniskee where there is at present a mansion owned by Mrs. F. Whyte, Kissaniskee. ~~Here~~ apparently Brian lived here for in 1599 Con O'Neill, son of Hugh, captured Brian's father, the Archbishop, and himself at Ballymackey Castle & held them to ransom. ~~They were~~ released, ~~rather~~ rather reluctantly by Conn of following a twice repeated order from his father Hugh. It is possible that after Brian's death it came back to the O'Neeras because ~~they were~~ Kissaniskee family were the only big landowners in the district to retain their possessions after the Cromwellian

Antiquities (contd.)

Plantations. The O'Mearas sided with the Jacobites against William & had their lands confiscated but they were later restored by William III. O'Halloran, the historian visited the "O'Meara of Toomevara" in the 1770's (last words of Ormond, p. 139 & 151)

Aghnameadle Castle & old church - Tomb of Mac Egan.

Three miles east of Toomevara on the lands of Mr. Phil Ryan, Aghnameadle, Toomevara stands the square keep ~~and~~ of the castle of the great family of Brehons, the Mac Egan. Less than a 1/2 of a mile north of it in an ancient churchyard is the ruin of the old parish church of Aghnameadle & the vaulted tomb of the Mac Egan.

The castle is square measuring 26 ft. x 20 ft. & stands about 40 ft. high. It contains 4 storeys & the ground floor is vaulted, the vaulting being quite sound. It is completely covered with ivy & the walls have been broken in a number of places all the windows ~~being~~ being torn out.

There are scant remains of some walls nearby apparently those of a large residential building (according to Hist. by O'Connell p. 458, "of the famous school" of the Brehons). The castle adjoins the farm buildings of Mr. Ryan's residence. X

In the old churchyard which is alongside the public road & slopes steeply away from it the old parish church is situated on low ground. The E. gable is more or less intact containing a quadrangular window 7 ft. by 6 ft. with a square hoodmould. All there is very little trace of the stone framework but it seems to have been divided in ~~two~~ by a mullion. The remainder of the walls are in a very ruinous condition but there is a pointed doorway in the south wall about 20 ft. from the west end. The whole is rectangular and seems to have been about 66 ft. long by 24 ft. wide. It seems to have been of about the same period as the castle.

The Mac Egan Tomb stands at a short distance up the slope of the graveyard & from the church ruin. It is rectangular - 18 ft. x 15 ft. It is stone roofed & after the manner of the vaulting of the old castles & the curve of the roof stands about 4 ft. from the ground.

It is about 8 ft. high to the highest point of the vaulting on the inside. It has a smooth clay floor & is entered by a pointed doorway 6 ft. high by 3 ft. 6 in. wide. (No altar or inscription)

All these structures are said to belong to the 15th Cent. (by O'Connell p. 458) though the same

Antiquities (contd.)

publication advances the ~~same~~ theory that it was built by Canons Regular in 13th Cent. but this for many reasons seems unlikely. Aghameadle was the principal residence in Ormond of the Mac Egan's, "the most distinguished family of Brehons in Milesian Ireland"; who had schools throughout Connaught & parts of Munster & Leinster. Aghameadle school held the position of a modern University where history, law, poetry etc. was taught to the sons of the old Milesian gentry. The traces of the old ruins beside the old keep are still known as "the Court" in the locality & the family is on record as having occupied "Aghameadle Court" in 1738. It remains evidence that the church was an unusually substantial building for a backward mountainous district ^{which} seems to point to the importance of the school at Aghameadle "which was older than that at Redwood" - principal seat of the Mac Egan's. (Hist. Ely O'Connell Ps. 457-59; last Lord of Ormond - Ps. 17, 43, 134, 241) {Ruins in churchyard have been repaired by clergy of parish}

Blean Castle:

Situated on high ground about a mile N.E. of Toomevara are the extensive ruins of Blean castle situated on high ground on the lands of Mr. Stephen Grace, Blean, Toomevara. What was apparently a once massive keep is now a pile of rubble (it was blasted at end of last cent.) is situated in a square patch of ground surrounded by a ditch - apparently the precincts of a considerable residence which adjoined the east side of the castle. The rectangular ruins of this residence measure about 90 ft. x 40 ft. Only holes show where the doorways & ^{windows} ~~were~~ were.

The house is more modern than the castle which probably belonged to the O'Neues being situated on the lands of Toomevara Priory ~~which~~ and the house probably dates from sometime after Miles Magrath got the grant of the lands in 1587. It was occupied by the Archbishop's grandson Marcus Magrath of Blean in the middle of 17th Cent. but ~~the castle~~ came under the Cromwellian confiscations (last Lord of Ormond Ps. 59, 143, 191, 205, 258, 266).

Camira or Caffagh Castle:

In the townland of Caffagh on which was formerly the Camira estate stand the remains of an old square keep which belonged to the O'Kenedys & though not as imposing as Castleblighton there is some similarity in style (on the lands of Mrs. Coffey, Camira Hse, Toomevara)

Antiquities (contd.)

It measures 21 by 29 ft. & in their present state the walls are less than 20 ft. high. Stones have been pulled out of the walls wherever a long S.W. stile. There is no entrance from ground level and the vaulted ground floor is reached by a. stairway descending from the first floor. It is situated in the O'Kennedy country.

Kilkeary Old Churchyard.

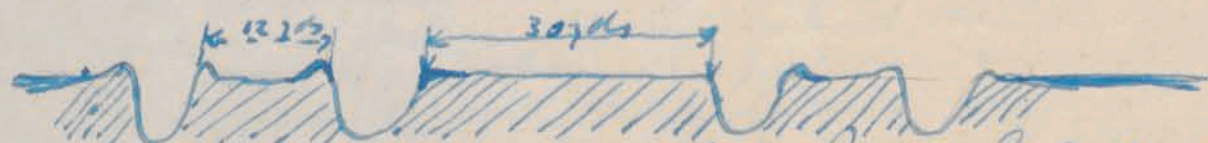
at Kilkeary about 5 miles from Kernalagh on the road to Thurles in the south of Toomevara parish is a little graveyard on the summit of a little knoll. It contains some large blocks of stone in a depression among the graves, believed to be the traces of an early Christian Church. The foundations were easily traceable in O'Donovan's time, 1840, being about 1 ft. above the ground. He remarked that there was not a single small stone in the ruin "suited sign of its antiquity". It was 52 ft. long & 19 ft. wide.

St. Cera (Kera) was descended "from the line of Connor King of Ireland" & born in Ormond. In his youth she "acquired a reputation for sanctity & miracles." About 625 she ~~obtained~~ founded a nunnery at Fethely near Durrus. She also founded a church at Kilkeary where she is supposed to be buried. (Quotations from Hist. by O'Canoll) Graveyard is within 50 yards of public road & is looked after by Co. Co.

Ballynashy Parish Church:

a fragment of the ruins of the ancient parish church of Ballynashy remains in the graveyard attached to Ballynashy Protestant Church. It was taken over after the Reformation and converted into a school.

Fort. There are a number of forts in the Kilkeary district of the parish. In Rathcline Fort in the townland of Grenanstown is in a very good state of preservation & remarkable for the width of its inner rampart. The following is a rough sectional elevation of it.



On the lands of Mr. M. Ryan, Grenanstown, Ballinallogh P.O., Kernalagh.

Historic Sites (contd.)

Curraheen "Vision" Hoax.

During the Summer of 1920 the story of an alleged appearance of the Blessed Virgin drew thousands of people to a small thatched farmhouse under Knockanora, ^{in the townland of} Curraheen, 5 miles south of Toomevara. For three months clergy and people from all over Ireland & even from across the channel flocked to the place seeking cures & the local people say "their belief" cured many of them.

The hoax was perpetrated by a farm servant named Jimmy Walshe (nicknamed "The Saint"). Statues were supposed to bleed and a "well" sprang up in the floor of a room. There was a "grotto" in a quarry some distance from the house where ~~the~~ offerings of money were left behind by visitors. Everyone was deceived, even the owners of the house, who were named Meagher, & whose family still reside there. An investigation ended the deception after about 3 months during which the Irish Volunteer police were engaged regulating the traffic on the roads.

Historic Houses - Burial Places (contd.)

* Kissaneiskey House: was the residence of the O'Meara family one of whom married Archbishop Miles Magrath. The present house was not built by them but their successors. They were there at the beginning of the nineteenth century. ~~It is situated~~ ^{It is situated} north of the road between Kilmagick & is the fine square built mansion known as Kissaneiskey House occupied by Mrs. F. Whyte. It is about 2 1/2 mls. from Toomevara.

Gen. Canoll - Kilkenny Churchyard

In Kilkenny Churchyard is a monument to Mr. Gen Sir Wm. Parker Canoll, C.B., K.C.H. of Tulla House who died 1842 aged 66. On a 10 ft. obelisk are carved the ~~names~~ following names: Bilboa, Bayonne, Pamplona, Ormes, Albuera, Parafior, Nava, Durango, Tamames, Stravo, Badajoz, Asturias.

He was a member of the O'Canolla family of the O'Canolls.

* A descendant of this family Dr. Barry O'Meara was ship's doctor aboard the "Bellerophon" in July ~~1815~~ 1815 when Napoleon surrendered himself on board. At Napoleon's request he accompanied him to St. Helena. / Hist. by O'Connell P. 463

"Lanigan's Folly"

On top of Knockanora Hill is the ruin of an old tower known as Lanigan's Folly. ~~The story~~ The following story concerning it is told by the people of the locality:— Lanigan O'Keefe was owner of Glanayle house in the valley north of the Hill & owned the land up to the top of the mountain. About the middle of the nineteenth century he was elected to Parliament & in celebration of this success decided to build the tower on a patch on top of the mountain mapped neither into his own estate or that of Fogarty of Castlefogarty. Litigation resulted with Fogarty who engaged as counsel a brother of Lanigan. The judgment was in favour of Fogarty & Lanigan remonstrated with his brother who told him to appeal & engage him as counsel. Lanigan did so; the decision was reversed and he went on with his "Folly", which owing to its exposed site is now reduced to a heap of rubble.

All the information in "Curiosities" is from stories told me by various people in the locality. The story of Lanigan's Folly was obtained from Ann. ~~Pat~~ O'Brien, Annaheran, who knew men who worked at the erection of the "Folly".

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Upper Ormond
 TOWN OR VILLAGE Toomevara PARISH Toomevara COUNTY Tipperary

ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE Ollatrim Nearest point to town (distance) Kenagh
 (tributary of Kenagh R.)

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout 1/2 lb. (numerous)

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout Feb-June.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

For, Dark, light & Green olives, (one in north of June)
Wash Brown, little Wren (green, orange, brown)
Hares ear, Greenwell's glory

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

Entirely Free.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

None

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Kenagh.

Local Angling Club Kenagh Anglers' Assoc. Membership Fee 1.50

Secretary (and Address) Mr. W. Gleeson, Ormond St., Kenagh.

This covers about 3 mls. of River from Rathures to Carrigrohane
- Badly in need of clearing. It is a great spawning
ground for salmon.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day :

Bait available locally ?..... Fishing tackle ?.....

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.....

GOLFING

Name of Club..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course ?..... Licensed ?.....

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day..... Per week.....

RACING

(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year None

Under which rules? None

Situation of course None

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds None

Harriers Heraph Harriers

Beagles None

COURSING

Name of Club None Meeting held annually? None

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company None

Races on (nights) None

SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available:

Grouse shooting along slopes of Devils Bit ~~etc~~
water in S.E. district of parish. Partridge plentiful
all over district. Occasional Pheasant. Woodcock
in northern portion along Ollatun river also occasional
duck, snipe etc in region of Woodville Bog (Northern part of parish)

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses:

None

Shooting Club None Secy. None

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club None Competitions held? None

ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.

None

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football Toomevara G. A. A. Club (Intermediate)
 Hurling Toomevara G. A. A. Club (Senior) Sec.: Daul Gleeson, Knocklackan, Ballinaclogh P.D., Nenagh.
 Handball none Handball alley? none
 Soccer none
 Rugby none
 Cricket none
 Hockey none
 Bowls none
 Bowling (on public roads) none
 Lawn Tennis none Kinds of courts none
 Croquet none
 Billiards none
 Badminton none
 Table Tennis none
 Bridge Club none
 Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) Cross Roads dancing at Glenagyle & Cloncamon (licensed dancing "Heddes") each about 2 1/2 m. from Village of Toomevara.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club none Events held under rules of _____
 do. _____

ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.) in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

"Rock Sunday" at Devil's Bit Promoters Pattem.
 (Sunday before 24th July)
 "Tower Sunday" at Knockanure Hill Promoters Pattem.
 (Sunday after Rock Sunday)

DATE

20/4/45

(Signed)

P. V. Turley
 Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF Upper OrmondTOWN OR VILLAGE Toomevara PARISH Toomevara COUNTY Tipperary

Location and brief description.

Population 250 (approx)

Toomevara Village is situated on the edge of the plains north of the Devil's Bit & Silvermine Mts. It is on the Limerick - Dublin bus route 7 miles E. of Nenagh & 14 S.W. of Roscrea. The main street - midway & in the south side of which is a wide triangle containing a hall & a small green and with an old castle ruin - is along the main road. Most of the houses are modern & neat but dilapidated & partly demolished houses in a couple of places cause eyesores.

Is there a Town Hall?

No.Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

A single pump piped from a spring.
No sewerage system.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station

Nenagh

Distance

7 mls.

Bus?

On Limerick - Dublin Route

Public lighting by—Electricity?

None

Gas?

None.

DANCING

Dance hall

Parochial Hall.

Proprietor

Vy Rev. F. O'Rahilly P.P.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas

NonePictures shown
(nights)1

Theatre

None

Kind of shows

(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Col. Col. Lending Library Branch
in Henagh National School - Open Sundays.*
Private Lending Libraries *None*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *St. Joseph's Catholic* Services (Sundays) *9.30 & 12 noon,*
Church of Ireland (Townland) *3 p.m. (occasional*
morning service)

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *In Village.*
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *Full Business*

BANKING

Banks *None.*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *None*

Photographic Stores *None*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *None*

Location

Public Baths? *None*

Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

None

Cultural Societies

a fairly active Amateur Dramatic Society.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

beal Milling - In Boland Tamera village

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

None

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

None

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

None of note.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

None

HOSPITALS

None

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets..... *none*

Weekly market day..... *Tuesday (big market)* Half-holiday..... *wednesday*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*T. Carr, Toomerua Village ~~small~~ petrol station
& small garage.*

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis..... *gas. Hickey, Knockane, Toomerua*

Motors (Touring)..... *none*

Boats (State type)..... *none*

Bicycles..... *none*

Caravans..... *none*

Horses..... *none*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location..... *none* Landowner.....

Local Improvements Committee..... *none*

Secretary.....

DATE..... *20/8/45*

(Signed)..... *P.V. Tuiley*

Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

The Tyrone Rebellion, The Confederate & Cromwellian wars exhausted the powers of the old Irish families of the District & they gave place to Cromwellian & Williamite planters. Sarsfield is believed to have passed through Toomevara after capturing the Williamite siege train at Ballyneety. Laurence O'Sullivan Beane on his retreat to the Breffni country after the Tyrone was passed through & was attacked by the Mac Eigans.
In 1867 the Devil's Bit was the assembly place of the Fenians but the phenomenally heavy snows of that year ended their activities. Later in the Black & Tan war the Volunteers assembled here (Dec. 1920) under Walter Macgrath, Captain of a famous hurling team known as "Toomevara Greyhounds" & a now a journalist in America. [Continued Page 12]

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupants. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

Richard Dalton Williams (1822-1862) from "Spirit of Tipperary" and other poems: Templepatrick

Richd. Dalton Williams a ~~contender~~ Physician, journalist, poet, contributor to the "Nation". Was the illegitimate son of Court Dalton. His Grenanstown House. His mother's name was Williams & he was born in a Dublin hospital. He was reared to manhood between his father's residence and - when the court was absent during the summer - at the house of the steward of Grenanstown House, a man named Fehilly. One of his best known poems was "The Dying Girl" was written about a niece of Fehilly whom he treated in his capacity as a physician in a Dublin hospital in later years. Most of his poems of a patriotic nature appeared in the "Nation". He practised as a doctor in Dublin for a time but in 1848 was tried for treason felony. He was acquitted and in 1851 emigrated to America. After some time as a professor in Spring Hill College he went to "New Orleans" where he practised as a physician. He wrote poetry for various American journals. His health became impaired & he went to Thibodaux, Louisiana in 1861 & died there the following year. A few years after his death a monument bearing the following was erected over his grave by Irish American soldiers - "as a slight testimonial of their esteem for his Unswerving Patriotism and his Exalted Devotion to the Cause". [See Page 11] of Irish Records

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

Monamore - Iron Spa:

About 2 mls. South of Toomevara in the townland of Monamore on the lands of Mr. Joseph O'Brien, is an iron spa. It has never been analysed but judging by the taste & the staining of the stones around the mineral content seems to be fairly high. There is no built up well just a small pool overflowing into a drain.

CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

The Devil's Bit:

"The Devil's Bit" is a well known landmark and freak of nature. A clear-cut gap in the high rocky ridge of the mountain gives it the appearance of a slice of cake out of which a bite has been taken. Legend says that the Devil took this bite out of the ridge (it doesn't say why) and dropped it at Coshel where it has become famous as the Rock of Coshel. Another version says that he dropped portion on Lyre hill near Moneycall, Co. Offaly and the rest somewhere in Galway while still another story is that he dropped it on Keeper Hill.

The "Long Stone" is a nine feet high standing stone at a cross roads in the townland of Ballinlough about 2 mls. south of Menagh. It is a noted landmark in the district ~~and~~ It is connected with the legend of the Devil's Bit — the local people say that the Devil broke a tooth in biting the mountain and it fell here & changed into stone. There is nothing to indicate whether it marks a burial, or is merely an ancient landmark. [See Page 12]

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

"Rock Sunday": — (The top of the Devil's Bit is locally called "The Rock.")

On the Sunday falling "on or after the 18th and before the 25th July" there is a gathering at the gap on the Devil's Bit. Large crowds from over a wide area go there & have pic-nics or a dance at Banane Tower just under the gap on the mountain's southern slope. It is in no way an organised pattern and its origin is not known. Some put it down as a commemoration of the occasion when the tenants of the locality buried their tithes on the hill, during the Tithe war, rather than pay them.

"Tower Sunday": The Sunday following "Rock Sunday" is known as "Tower Sunday" and is the occasion of a similar gathering to that of the Devil's Bit on the summit of cone-shaped Knockanorra mountain a couple of miles west of the former mountain. On the top of Knockanorra (442 ft.) are the remains of an old tower called "Banigan's Folly" built about the middle of the last century from which the name "Tower Sunday" seems to be derived. There is no explanation of the origin of this custom and the reason given by the people of the locality is that they just go up "to view around".

(Signed)

J. V. Turley

Surveyor.

DATE 20/4/45.