



Drangan & Cloncan
Parish of Breen

Ballinard Castle

South View

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF MidletonTOWN OR VILLAGE Drangan PARISH Drangan & Bloncen COUNTY Wexford

TOPOGRAPHY

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

^{includes topographical features.}
 The parish of Drangan ~~is bounded~~ ^{is bounded} on the south by Kilsheen Killesh, on the west by Kethard and Killeenake, on the north by Killeenake Shallogary and on the east by Killeenake.
 Its southern side takes in most of the celebrated valley of Slievenaman. From the top of Ballinard Castle (2 miles west of Bloncen) a remarkable panorama unexpectedly unfolds itself. Immediately around the castle rich pleasantly wooded countryside ^{declines} gently south to the sluggishly moving river, while beyond the large bulk of Slievenaman sprawls across the plain like some recumbent prehistoric giant; its slopes

GEOLOGY

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

None.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTERLocation and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

Ballinard Castle is situated north of the Kethard-Bloncen road 2 miles west of Bloncen. The castle consists of a square keep 94 feet high, to the southern side of which has been attached a modern residential building. The keep which is very well preserved is part of a castle built here by Lady Ossory in 1641. I have been unable to obtain any further information about it except that a family named Rods occupied it after the Cromwellian wars and that subsequently it was in the possession of a James Lindsay family. In recent times, of course, it was owned and lived in by Senator John Quicke. of Anglo-Irish bar. family. Typical of his association with the place is a secret chamber, the entrance to which is cunningly concealed by a door in the place. The Quicke's account of what secrets it contains. Sheet 2.

Topography.

caused by the shifting, ever-varying colour-scheme that changes, hour by hour or moment by moment. Then there are ~~the~~ wonderful vistas of distant mountains - Keppel-hill faintly visible 14 miles to the N.W.; the Galtees and Knockmealdowns much more prominent, 20 miles to the south west; in the distance the Knockmealdowns ~~and (boreenagh)~~ ~~seems to merge~~ with the blue peaks of the Comeraghs as they rise ^{over} the Suir valley directly south; eastwards, looming on the horizon nearly 50 miles away are Mount Leinster and the Blackstairs faintly blue in the distance. Mansions bottles etc.

Ballinard Castle Contd

it ~~shattered~~ would undoubtedly be interesting today. The keep has been renovated ^{it is now} as part of a modern dwelling house. Very few of its original features remain, but ~~there are~~ ^{the} ~~of~~ ^{can still be seen} the spiral stairway and some of the original windows. The view from the top is well worth the arduous climb, and has already been described under Topography. The present owner Mrs Dillon, of Limerick City, while ~~not~~ ^{not} wishing to lose the ~~for any of the place~~ ^{the} ~~disturbed~~ will admit genuinely interested visitors. ~~with antiquarian or scenic interest in the building.~~ There is no library or art collection.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Mounds, 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.

Blonnan Church Ruins

Situated in a cemetery to the rear of the present Catholic Church of Blonnan, ~~the ruins~~ ^{remain} measure 46 ft by 33 ft. ~~as do~~ consists of the east & west gables, ~~to~~ ^{to} their original heights. ~~very good~~ ^{and} portions of the north & south side walls. ~~Interiorly~~ The building was divided into nave and chancel but the chancel arch has long ago disappeared. The door was in the south side wall near the west gable. The only other feature pointed out is the east window which is a narrow single light. ~~The building is of limestone and is Gothic in style. The workmanship is very poor.~~ Local tradition holds that it was originally an Augustinian foundation, ~~but there is no confirmation of this~~ ^{so far have been unable to verify} ~~there is a right of way.~~

Knockroe Church Ruins

adjacent to the eastern end of the village of Drangan this ruin would surely be that of the pre-reformation parish church of Drangan. Only portions of the west gable and north side wall remain but from the marks and traces of the foundation it is evident that the original church structure measured approx 44 ft by 22 1/2 ft. The stone is limestone and the workmanship appears to have been very crude. ~~There is a right of way through the surrounding cemetery.~~

Magowry Church Ruins

Slightly to the west of the Drangan Killaruaile road 2 miles N.W. of Drangan. Said to have been a church of St Declan, the ruins of which only featureless portions remain, seems indeed to be very ancient. ~~There is a right of way~~

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY**AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)**BARONY OF MiddlethirdTOWN OR VILLAGE Drangan PARISH Drangan & Blonsen COUNTY Lifferry

Location and brief description.

Population 170 73

The village of Drangan is situated 4 miles N.E. of Yethand, the best approach to it being along the Mullinahone road but as far as Blonsen the northwards. It is a lone windswept place containing nothing of interest to the visitor.

Is there a Town Hall? no Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

no.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

water supply no sewerage.

A water supply system is provided but there is no sewerage.

PUBLIC SERVICESNearest station Yethand Distance 4 miles Bus? none.Public lighting by—Electricity? none Gas? none**DANCING**Dance hall none Proprietor**CINEMAS AND THEATRES**Cinemas none Pictures shown (nights)Theatre none Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries

None
Benjamin Franklin National School
Benjamin Franklin National School

Private Lending Libraries

None

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church

Catholic
St. Mary
CLONED

Services (Sundays)

11-15 am

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office

Main St.

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)

Yes

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

~~Blancet Social Club~~

Smith Point Women's Association
Alpena Branch, Chautauque

Cultural Societies

none.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

none.

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

none.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

Michael Busack Memorial, Main St.

This consists of a life size figure holding a rifle (shaft resting on ground) mounted on an 8 ft high pedestal. The whole work is in limestone. Inscription:-

In memory of Michael Busack who died August 7th 1909.
as a patriot tribute to Patriotism
He loved his country and served his kind.
"Go thou and do likewise"

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

Butcher Block

This is an imposing looking Gothic structure, of the cruciform type.
The ending of the nose is tastefully decorated.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Blancet U.S. Boys & Girls.

Drangan Boys U.S.

Drangan Mercy Convent Girls U.S.

HOSPITALS

none.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *none*

Weekly market day *none* Half-holiday *Thursday*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

John White Main St. Filling Station

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *James Gleeson Main St 1 car*

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 *none*

DATE *22/4/43* (Signed) *W. B. Brien*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

Middlethird

TOWN OR VILLAGE

Bloneen

PARISH

*Drangan &
Bloneen*

COUNTY

Liffenny

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

River

Nearest point to town (distance)

1/2 mile

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

1/2 lb

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

April-May

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

Greenwell's glory, various others

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

Entirely free

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Yethand

Local Angling Club

None

Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

none.

Kinds of fish to be caught :

none.

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

none.

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

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

GOLFING

Name of Club..... none..... 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?

Situation of course

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds none

Harriers none

Beagles none

COURSING

Name of Club none Meeting held annually?

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company none

Races on (nights)

SHOOTING

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

not preserved. Good for wild fowl specially the
Quaker Huts for wild geese. Very supply of
Pleasant.

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

Shooting Club none Secy.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club none Competitions held?

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	Amervale Rovers G.A.A.	Amervale Rovers G.A.A.	Blouew.
Hurling	Amervale Rovers G.A.A.	do	do
Handball		Handball alley?	Drangan
Soccer	none		
Rugby	none		
Cricket	none		
Hockey	none		
Bowls	none		
Bowling (on public roads)	none		
Lawn Tennis	Blouew Lawn Tennis Club	Kinds of courts	2 Grass
Croquet	none		
Billiards	none		
Badminton	none		
Table Tennis	none		
Bridge Club	none		
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)			

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club..... Ames 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.

DATE: 22/4/43

(Signed) _____
Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

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

bloncen village.

Cluanbeg

Is indentified as the bluanbeg of Wickham's
Knocknagow. It was closely associated with the
abortive '48 rising and in later times with the
land reform agitation.

Gortnashilly.

2 miles south of bloncen on the slopes of Slieveannagh.

Scene of a battle between the Desmonds and Butlers in Sept 1581, where
Butler's forces were defeated losing ten battalions (vide Bally West Geraldine)
In lower Ballinard near the scene of the battle bones of men, horses, battens, bits
of metal etc were found during the early part of the 19th century.

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

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

none

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.

none

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.

none.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

none

(Signed)

W. Brien

Surveyor.

DATE

22/4/43