

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Middlethird

TOWN OR VILLAGE New Inn PARISH New Inn & Knockgraffow COUNTY Yiffary

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The modern parish area covers the ancient parishes of New Inn, Knockgraffow, Bortonrath and Loughbart, and is fairly extensive. It is an entirely rural area, lying in the midst of the great 'golden vein' of rich pastureland. The clocktower at Rockwell College commands an outstanding prospect of the surrounding countryside. To the south lies those fertile wooded plains which slope gently down to the lovely sea; on the east Slievenaman lifts his storied summit above the Anner Valley; northwards ancient basalt cuts the skyline with ruins splendid even in decay; whilst westward above Ashlow's hallowed Glen, towers spear-like Galtemore, a giant sentinel guarding the ancestral realms of Callinarr.

GEOLOGY

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

none.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Rockwell College.
A mile to the north of New Inn a gateway surmounted by a graceful arch opens on to a tree-lined avenue that leads to Rockwell College, one of our most important educational establishments. The present-day college consists of a quadrilateral pile of imposing modern buildings not quite completely enclosing an inner courtyard, a beautiful church in the Romanesque style and a fine, recently built, three storey structure to the east and detached from the main buildings. Overlooking the whole pile is a magnificent clock tower springing from the centre of the northern side of the main building. Surrounded by a demesne of about 400 acres the setting of this celebrated institution is superbly beautiful. In its environs are included a picturesque island-studded lake, which has its racing and pleasure boats; an experimental forestry ground at present growing some 30000 trees, among which are included many rare specimens such as
see continuation I

ANTIQUITIES

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

Knockgraffon Mote.

3 miles west of New Inn we meet a notable landmark in the famous mote of Knockgraffon one of the finest of its type existing today. It rises to a height of 60 ft from the knoll on which it is erected, and is 60 ft in diameter at the summit. It seems to be formed of tiers of stone now covered with green turf. There have been various opinions as to its origin. It has long been held locally as one of the chief domains of the fairies, and tradition has it that it was the crowning place of the Kings of Munster long before Daniel came into existence. Be that as it may, authorities now hold - that Knockgraffon mote together with all the similar motes throughout the country are of Anglo-Norman origin, and it is recorded that it was one of the great baronial headquarters in the Palatinate of Tipperary. However, not forgetting its pre-Norman associations, it is safe to assume (~~was built~~) that the mote was built by the Normans on a pre-existing earthwork.

Crofton brother's "Legend of Knockgraffon" is familiar on the popular account of its origin. X Readers of this fascinating tale will recall that the mote is nothing more than the hump of a poor hunch-back pedlar who after falling asleep in a "Fairies' Ring" near Knockgraffon met the "good people" and straightened out their music for them, and for his reward was relieved of his hump, which he left behind to form the present-day Mote! X

However, putting aside the legend of folk-lore we have reliable authorities as relating Knockgraffon's associations with ancient Ireland. Geoffrey Keating in his history relates that it was the stronghold of Giachra Muillethan King of Munster in the third century A.D. He says "Giachra

Rockwell College. Contd. Continuation I

maple, cedar and Japanese cherry; a well-tilled farm and rich pasture-land dotted with ornamental trees. And southwards it commands an inspiring view of some of the noblest landscape and mountain scenery in Ireland.

The college was founded in 1864 by the Holy Ghost fathers in a brownellian mansion which has been incorporated in the latter day buildings. Previous to 1864 the mansion had associations, which, although, not related to the college, yet were ~~the~~ indirectly the cause of its foundation. One-time residence of brownellian settlers named Roe, who were local landlords it passed out of this family when Mr Roe was murdered by an evicted tenant in October 1847. The next resident was a very popular gentleman named Robert Birse, from whom it seems to have passed into the jurisdiction of the Incumbered Estate Courts. In 1856 it was purchased from the Courts by a M. Charles Thiebault, a French merchant of Dundee, Scotland, who sent his brother Gustave to manage it for him. Disputes arose between Gustave and the tenants, and as a result of which he was brutally murdered ~~in~~ the nearby townland of Killenasterna, 9 miles west of Rockwell on the 28th April 1862. The scene of the crime is indicated by a cross ^{on a stone} scraped, on the western side of the road.

In consequence of the murder of his brother M. Charles Thiebault resolved to establish in Rockwell an institution having for its object to expiate the awful crime and to inspire the present & future generations with a deep horror of such barbarous deeds. Accordingly the Order of the Society of Mary or Marxist Fathers were established there, but they only remained about 12 months. The Holy Ghost fathers were then introduced and due to their untiring efforts and zeal they have made Rockwell what it is today - a magnificent educational establishment whose illustrious alumni have distinguished themselves throughout the globe. Some very distinguished names are associated with

Rockwell: -

An Gaorsleach Mrs De Valera spent some years there as a professor of mathematics. Mr Thomas Lynch T.D. studied there as did also the far famed Ryan brothers, Jack & Mike, one-time heroes of international Rugby. The late Thomas

Rockwell Cntd. continuation 2.

McDonagh, patriot & poet must have drawn much of his inspiration from his student days at Rockwell.

Rockwell alumni too have shed a lustre on ecclesiastical life. One need but recall the names of his grace the late Most Rev Rius Dowling O.P. Archbishop of the Port of Spain (Jamaica), Most Rev Dr. Leen C.S.S.P. Archbishop of Port Louis (Mauritius) Rt Rev Dr. Gleeson C.S.S.P. Bishop of Maitland (Australia) the late Rt Rev Dr. Shine Bishop of Middlesborough, the late Rt Rev Dr. Fogarty C.S.S.P. Vicar Apostolic of Kilima Ndjaro (Tanzania) the late Monsignor Innocent Ryan Dean of the Ash.

Rockwell can also count as past pupils, many men who are today prominent in the civil service, and the professional and business walks of life.

The determination of Rockwell boys of today to maintain the proud traditions of the past is evident from the striking fact that for fourteen years without a break, in the Secondary Schools Intermediate and Leaving Certificate examinations Rockwell has taken first place among the residential colleges of Ireland.

Rockwell has some very fine paintings of scriptural subjects, both original and copies. There is ^{also} an extensive library containing some valuable books.

Visitors have permission to look round, for the asking.

Between the college buildings and the lake is to be seen the well which gives Rockwell its name. A stone canopy erected over it bears the inscription,

A.S.R

1499.

~~Rockwell~~

Knockgraffon. contd. 3

stayed at Rath Raftern which is now called Croc Raffon with his foster mother Raffon" from ^{whom} ~~which~~ it appears the hill has taken its name. Hearings set forth at length the circumstances of Fiacha's birth and the reason for his fosterage with Raffon. "He was distinguished by the title Fiachadh Gear da Liach by reason of the sorrowful news that was brought for the word Liach in the Irish language signifies news." The 'sorrowful news' being the account of the death of her husband Eoghann Mor (eldest son of Oillob Olum King of Munster) at the Battle of Muehruine, brought to Fiacha's Mother Muechra. In order to obtain her still unborn son's succession to the throne of Munster Muechra immediately ^{perceived that} her own life would have to be sacrificed to bring about the birth for she would thus be fulfilling the prophecy of her father Dil da Creagha, the Druid who ~~foretold~~ foretold that that the crown of Ireland would be placed on the head of her fatherless son if born under certain conditions. Muechra proudly fulfilled those conditions and Fiacha was born on a small rock in the middle of the Lur, which can be seen today not far from Knockgraffon. Oillob Olum knew nothing of Eoghann Mor's marriage, and after the battle of Magh Muechruine appointed as his successor, ^{in perpetuity} his second son Cormac Cos and his descendants. However, learning of the birth of Fiacha Muilleathan he immediately altered his will so that, after Cormac Cos, Fiacha would rule Munster, and that hereafter the kingship would alternate between their descendants. Thus originated the two great dynasties of subsequent Munster history the Eoghannacht and the Dal Cais.

The Ford of Knockgraffon.

Fiacha met his death close to the place of his birth. One warm summer's day he left his palace at Knockgraffon to bathe in the Lur having with him as guest his kinsman Conla, a prince of Leinster. Conla was afflicted with leprosy and a Druid had told him that he could only be cured by washing himself all over with the blood of a king. As a token of their friendship Conla ~~half~~ held Fiacha's lance while he was swimming. Suddenly, as he watched Fiacha the

prediction of the Druid came to Conla and he treacherously ran Giaca through with his own spear, intending to plunge into the blood-red waters. Giaca was mortally wounded, but seeing his attendants about to kill Conla and thus avenge him, he forbade them, and commanded that his life should be spared. Giaca was then brought ashore and died instantly. Giaca had a great reputation as a soldier and leader and it is recorded that he defeated the reigning High King Cormac Mac Art at a famous battle fought at Knocklong, Co. Limerick.

In much later times a descendant of Giaca, the O'Sullivan, had his seat at Knockgraffon, and possessed large territory in the neighbourhood. In a celebrated poem O'Meara the bard eulogised him as follows:—

"O'Sullivan who delighted not in violence,
Ruled over the great Eganacht of Ulster.
About Knockgraffon he obtained his lands
after this victory of conflict and battles."

X Also connected with Knockgraffon is the legend of how the O'Sullivan came by their name.
~~It is worth relating:~~

During his journeys through Ireland a British Druid, named ^{Luvan} Luvan visited King Eochy at Knockgraffon. Eochy was so delighted at the Druid's poetry and music that on leaving he asked him to name whatever reward he desired.

"Your eyes", answered the malevolent old Druid. In those days no Druid could be refused, and Eochy tore out his eyes and flung them to Luvan. Luvan.

Shortly afterwards who should arrive at Knockgraffon but the great St. Ruadhan, abbot of Lough. He heard the story of the wicked ^{Luvan} Luvan and deplored ~~he should be punished~~ ^{he should be punished}. He believed that ^{Luvan} Luvan should be punished, and prayed earnestly that ^{Luvan's} eyes should be transferred to Eochy. The Saint's prayer was heard. Eochy got Luvan's eyes and from henceforth was (known) nicknamed "Súil-Labhán" which means

"The eyes of Luvan!"

With the establishment of Surnames by Brian Boru, Eochy's descendant, Buadach ^{Bro} assumed the nickname, thus making it the surname of a famous clan. ✕

Knockgraffon contd. 5

~~History~~

Battle with Norsemen.

History relates that in the 10th century the Danes were defeated in an important engagement on the banks of the river above Bloumel. Tradition has it that this battle was fought at Knockgraffon, and that eleven hundred Danes were killed.

Battle between the Geraldines & Butlers.

Knockgraffon is also said to have been the scene of a battle between the Geraldines and Butlers during the 16th century. After the encounter sixteen of the dead Butlers lay dead on the hill around the mote.

Ruined Church Knockgraffon.

Not far from the mote, in an ancient cemetery, is the ruin of a pre-reformation church of the mediæval period. Here it was that the illustrious Geoffrey Keating, priest, historian and poet preached the fateful sermon, with pointed references to a local lady of high standing, that was the cause of putting him "on his keeping" with Baron the President of Munster after him. A memorable event, this flight of Keating to the safety of Ashdown, and one for thoughtful speculation today. Paradoxical as it seems, Baron performed a service of inestimable value to the Irish Nation when he turned his priest-hunters on Keating's track. Had Keating been left in peace to continue in his chosen calling as pastor in these ^{extremely} difficult times, it seems most unlikely that his onerous duties would have permitted him the time and other facilities necessary for the enormous amount of research that must have preceded the penning of his monumental writings.

The old ruin, which is not preserved is fast decaying. There is a night of way.

(see over)

Knockgraffon could be.

16th century Castle.

Adjoining the castle is to be seen the remains of a 16th century keep in which resided a Junior brother of the Duke of Rutland. There ~~is~~ is no right of way and it is not preserved. However visitors may inspect the ruins.

14th Century Residence.

Not far from the castle on the Duke's side can be seen the ruin of a 14th century house of the independent type.

Church Ruin Loughkent.

One mile east of New Inn which is the ruin of the parish of Loughkent. Walls ~~are~~ now

we come to the graveyard in medieval church of the 12th. Only small portions of the remains.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF MiddlethirdTOWN OR VILLAGE New Inn PARISH New Inn & Knockgraffon 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 Luir Nearest point to town (distance) 3 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Salmon & Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sea trout Brown trout $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon Feb to May Sea trout Brown trout March to May

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon Swiss Blue, Myster, Dun Red, Jock Scott Black Vector Silver RangeSea trout Brown trout Parsons alder, March brown, Greenwell glory

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

Free except on preserved stretches

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Ballydoehid. 3 miles on one bank and $\frac{1}{2}$ on opposite bank
owned by Monel Master's Baker Road. apply to the Agent
estate office Baker

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

none

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Baker'sLocal Angling Club none Membership Fee Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

none

Kinds of fish to be caught :

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.....

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH..... COUNTY.....

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE..... Nearest point to town (distance).....

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

.....

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout.....

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout.....

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

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

.....

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

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Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

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Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

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.....

Local Angling Club..... Membership Fee.....

Secretary.....

(Signed)

DATE.....

Surveyor.

Knochgraffon. Note was regarded locally
as one of the chief domains of the fairies.
Crofton brooker's "Legend of Knochgraffon" is
familiar as a popular account of its origin.

Continue with part marked X X on
Form A, p. 1.

Then follow (near para.) with
part marked X X on p. 4 of Form A.

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 *Ypperary Foxhounds.*

Harriers *blonmel Harriers.*

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:

*Good for Pheasant & Partridge and occasionally wild duck
except for the Rockwell college demense. the
parish area is free.*

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

not preserved.

*Rockwell college demense preserved. nobody is allowed
shoot it.*

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.

no.

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.....

Hurling..... *Rockwell Rovers GAA. Hurling Club. New Inn.*

Handball..... *none*..... Handball alley?..... *none, 48*

Soccer..... *none*.....

Rugby..... *none*.....

Cricket..... *none*.....

Hockey..... *none*.....

Bowls..... *none*.....

Bowling (on public roads)..... *none*.....

Lawn Tennis..... *The Glebe Tennis Club.*..... Kinds of courts..... *2 grass courts.*

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..... *New Inn N.A.C.A. Club.*..... Events held under rules of..... *N.A.C.A.*.....

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.

..... Promoters.....

..... *none.*.....

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DATE..... *30/1/43.*.....

(Signed).....

Robnier

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Middle third*TOWN OR VILLAGE *New Inn & Kneekorabon* PARISH *New Inn* COUNTY *Lifford*

Location and brief description.

Population *90**5 miles south of Bachel and north of Bachel on the main road - Dubbin road is the little village of New Inn.*Is there a Town Hall? *no* Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

no

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Bachel* Distance *5* Bus? *Blonmel - Glenties*
Public lighting by—Electricity? *Electricity* Gas? *no*

DANCING

Dance hall *New Inn Dance Hall* Proprietor *New Inn Hall Committee*

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *none* Pictures shown (nights)Theatre *none* Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries Carnegie Library Convent Schools

Private Lending Libraries none

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church	<u>New Inn</u>	<u>Catholic</u>	Services (Sundays)	<u>9.30</u>	<u>12 noon</u>
	<u>Knockgraffon</u>	<u>do</u>		<u>10.30</u>	
	<u>Rockwell College</u>	<u>Catholic</u>		<u>8, 9, 10, 11, 12</u>	
	<u>Blunck</u>				

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office New Inn

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

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 *none*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Outagh Co-op. brewery.*

Batter Manufacturers.

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.

Church Rockwell College.

a very fine example of Romanesque architecture built of good rough faced limestone ashlar.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

New Inn convent girls National School.

do Boys do.

Knockgraffon Boys & girls.

Maginstown Boys & girls.

Rockwell college.

HOSPITALS

none.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *none*

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

none

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *none*

Motors (Touring) *none*

Boats (State type) *none*

Bicycles *none*

Caravans *none*

Horses *none*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location Landowner

Local Improvements Committee *none*

Secretary

DATE *30/1/43*

(Signed) *H. Brien*

Surveyor.

PARISH Middle third

COUNTY Wiltshire

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newbury & Knockgrathon.

Hotels

No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lavs.	No. Public Rooms	Licensed
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Remarks

none

GUEST or BOARDING HOUSES

none.

Date 30/1/43

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

Signed W. H. H. H. Surveyor

HISTORIC SITES

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

none

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. H. M. M.

Surveyor.

DATE

30/1/43