

Cadell's Hotel
Keshagh,
Co. Tipperary

Dear Sir,

I wish to inform
you that Newport Convent of
Mary and books on the lines
of Boyles etc.

I will be thankful for
a form B. and form D. by
return. — sent 19/9/44. g.x.

Very sincerely yours,
James Henchy.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.[BARONY OF OWNEY and ARRA.TOWN OR VILLAGE NEWPORT. PARISH NEWPORT. COUNTY LIPPERARY.

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Newport stretches along the Shannon for three miles - from a mile and a half NE. of O'Brien's bridge to within two miles S. of Killaloe.

From the Shannon basin numerous wooded foot-hills, rising one above the other, roll E. past the Limerick - penagh Rd. to the foot of Keepers Hill and reaching an elevation of 1200' at Lackanone.

GEOLOGY

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

Cont'd p. 2.

There is a subterraneous stream flowing from near the Saints Bed at Cragg to the Holy Well near the Cragg cemetery - a distance of about 200 yds. It is 3 miles NW. of Newport.

The area comprising the western portion of the parish is a limestone district where there are one or two limestone quarries. There is a

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

reddish stone, all along the eastern district, called Greek Stone.

The mountainous areas to the east are largely boglands.

The chief crops are potatoes, turnip, cabbage & other root crops. Some oats & barley are grown also. The parish however is very hilly & considered unarable in most places.

ANTIQUITIES

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

BALLYMAEKEOGH CHURCH. The church ruin of Ballymackeogh is situated in an extensive wood in the townland of the same name a mile & a half S.W. of Newport.

It is an uninteresting ruin, the walls being almost completely ivy clad. It is a large oblong building of rather small masonry laid in regular courses. The only features are a pointed doorway in the S. wall and a small ogre-headed window in the same side. The E. window is defaced. The present ruin probably belongs to the 16th century.

Not in charge of O.P.W. Right of way.

KILNERATH CHURCH. This ruin stands in the cemetery of Kilnerath 2 miles N.E. of Newport.

This too is an uninteresting ruin. In Fr. Path. J. Lee's Hist. of Newport parish the following account of Kilnerath church is found in P. 9.

"The original church of Kilnerath has completely disappeared. At the reformation the church that stood there was pulled down & the site was used again for a small Protestant Church, in which Protestant service was held up to about 1780, and the ruins of which still stand in the cemetery there. O'Donovan mentions that these ruins were not worth minute description."

It is a small oblong building with several breaches. The windows are large with semi-circular

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

See P. 3 (P)

3. (b)

ANTIQUITIES

PARISH—NEWPORT: BARONY—OWNEYDARRA: CO. TIPPERARY.
 Leads very rudely constructed of flat stone.
 There is no cut-stone work in the building.
 There is a subterraneous passage near the entrance of the ruin. It is built of dry masonry & covered with strong flags. It is now difficult explore it, but tradition says it is an extensive passage.

St. Comenath's Church, Bed and Well.

In the townland of Cragg, about three miles N.W. of Newport in Cragg cemetery is the site of St. Comenath's Church. The Church was built in 1470. (Hist. of Newport by Rev. Fr. Lee P. 17).

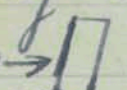
Just outside the cemetery, by the roadside is the Holy Well of Saint Comenath and about 200 yds. N. of the cemetery is the traditional "bed" of the Saint.

The Bed: It is a large irregular block of brown sandstone about eight feet long and four feet wide. The highest end is to the west (with the lower end towards the road) and on the highest part of it is a large button or trough. To the west of this, above it, is a similar one & there are traces of two or three others in the rock. There are two sets of scoring or indentations on it—one near the top of six irregular broad strokes, made while the set lower down consists of four slight scores. These markings are said to represent the impressions of the Saint's ribs and hands. Rounds are sometimes performed round the cemetery, at the well & finally at the Saint's Bed by lying on it. Sufferers from eye disease are the most frequent visitors.

Crag Castle: This is an ivy clad ruin mid way between Newport & Birtchill and about 30 yds. from the Roadside.

It is reduced to about 50' in height and measures about 30' x 24' in plan.

The circular entrance door opens into a square hallway (14'). Just inside the doorway there is a muddering hole opening down from a small room overhead. A second round-headed door leads into the main ground hall which is a vaulted apartment. It was lit by a loop which is now built up. The spiral stair to the left of the entrance is almost destroyed. It is in fair preservation to the first floor level, but is destroyed from here up.

There is another vaulted room just over the ground apartment or main hall. Between the two vaultings, there was originally a floor on corbels. The remaining windows in the building consists of four small rectangular openings thus .

The castle which was probably built in the 15th century was originally owned by the Ryans & later became the property of the Going family. Representatives of the Going family still hold land in Crag townland.

Castle Waller. This is an uninteresting ruin situated 2 1/2 miles E. of Newport. It was originally a castellated building which was burnt during the civil war. The four walls alone remain with sq. headed windows & doorways. A date on a stone of the archway leading to the yard 1799 is probably the date of the building.

It was originally owned by a Ryan family also, but was later the property of the Waller family — thus "Castle Waller" &

the S.E. extremity of the parish - 4 miles from Newport on the Thurles Rd.

The few extensive plantations; the numerous groves in the valleys & on the hillsides; the roads canopied by trees; together with the surrounding hills of Tipperary & Clare give the parish an attractive setting.

Travelling in through the western extremity of Newport on the road from Limerick to Kenagh, the drive is very pleasant as one approaches Birdhill under a canopy of trees & catches a fine view of the Shannon beyond the low-lying countryside (W. of Rd.) so picturesquely studded with groves, white thorn & sally hedges.

Across the river the bare hills E. Clare dim down the horizon while the wooded hills of Newport rise from the roadside eastwards.

Proceeding from Birdhill in the direction of Kenagh there is little change of scenery; the Clare hills are still within view and Keppel & the Silvermines rise to the E.

Leaving Birdhill & ascending a steep hill on the road to Newport, one gets a delightful view of the prettily wooded Shannon basin & the lordly river flowing peacefully at the foot of the East Clare Mtns. The drive to Newport is through a rolling countryside where pasture tillage & woodland are interspersed. About midway between Birdhill & Newport in Craff townland a fine view of the bogslands which comprise the SW. angle of the parish stretching on to the Limerick - Newport Rd. is obtained. In the distant SW. the spire of St. John's Church Limerick is visible.

From Newport there is a steep angle of elevation eastwards. The road ~~then~~ to Thudles winds its way up a rather unattractive hill where fern & purple heather alone relieve the bareness of the district.

From the summit of the hill 1200 there is a glorious vista (at Lackamore 4 m. E. from Newport) The valley is beautifully clothed with groves, whitethorn & sally hedges looks neat & attractive and is in contrast to the bare hills of Clare which rise in the background to the W. & N.W. Level country stretches away S.W. onto Limerick city where St. John's is again visible and the silvery outline of the Shannon glitters brightly!

From Lackamore one may return to Newport by branching N. at Reas Cross.

This route takes one along the foot of Keiper Mtn. in the adjoining parish of Ballinabrinch & affords a good view of the mountainous Bops which comprise the S.E. angle of Newport.

A favourite walk or cycle trip from Newport is to the Glen — a mile & a half S.E. of the village — the outstanding attraction of the parish. The journey is over an undulating countryside skirted with trees. The Glen certainly presents a scene of unsurpassing rugged beauty.

The Clare river rushing swiftly along falling over ledge after ledge to form several picturesque waterfalls; prettily wooded cliffs rising steeply from the water's edge to a height of seventy or eighty feet are traversed by little

PARISH—NEWPORT: BARONY—LOWNEY & ARRA: TIPPERARY

3. A

TOPOGRAPHY.

pathways at their bases & on their summits and afford some interesting views of the beautifully wooded Limerick plains W. & S.W. over which rises the noble spire of St. John's Church in Limerick while the bare hills of Clare dim the horizon N.W. Keeper Hill & the Silver-mines are seen N.E.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

DOWNEY AND ARRA

TOWN OR VILLAGE

NEWPORT.

PARISH

NEWPORT.

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

NEWPORT.

Nearest point to town (distance)

Flows through it

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

SALMON: BROWN TROUT.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon

8 lbs.

Sea trout

—

Brown trout

1/2 lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon

August & Sept.

Sea trout

—

Brown trout

March to end of May.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Orange Grouse (Large): Silver Doctor: Jack Scott.

Sea trout

Brown trout

Orange Grouse: March Brown: Hare's Ear: Olive Quill.

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 required.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Castlecormell & Newport.

Local Angling Club

Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

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 ? *In Limerick 12 mls.*

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 DWNEY & ARRA.

TOWN OR VILLAGE NEWPORT PARISH NEWPORT COUNTY TIPPERARY.

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE CLARE GLENS Nearest point to town (distance) 1 1/2 miles.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

BROWN TROUT.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout 1/2 lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout April - June.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout ORANGE GROUSE: MARCH BROWN: HARE'S EAR

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 Required.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Castlecconnell & Newport.

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

Secretary.....

DATE 2. 9. 1914.

(Signed) James Henchy.
Surveyor.

RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....

Under which rules?.....

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds.....

Harriers.....

Beagles.....

COURSING

Name of Club NEWPORT COURSING CLUB. Meeting held annually? YES: Pre-war.

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company.....

Races on (nights).....

SHOOTING

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

There is very good grouse & Partridge shooting available along the Mtns. to the E. of Parish which attracts large shooting parties. The best areas are the Mtns. E. of Newport village. Duck are found in the marshy areas E. & W. of the village & along the Clare Glens River - S.E. extremity of the parish.

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

Most of the Mountain E. of Newport village & N. of the Newport - Thurles Road is preserved by Mrs. Coffey Anonbeg, Newport. A small portion of it adjoining the Thurles Rd. preserved by Mr. G. B. Barrington, Barrington St. Limerick.

Shooting Club NONE

Secy.....

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... Competitions held?.....

ROWING AND SAILING

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

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 NEWPORT HURLING & FOOTBALL CLUB. Pitch outside village off
Hurling do. do. the Thurles Road.
Handball Handball alley?
Soccer
Rugby
Cricket
Hockey
Bowls
Bowling (on public roads)
Lawn Tennis Kinds of courts
Croquet
Billiards YES: In the Parochial Hall.
Badminton do. do.
Table Tennis
Bridge Club
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) Cross Roads Dancing
occasionally.
Pitch & Toss.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club NO NE 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.

Promoters

Coursing Meeting

Newport Coursing Club.

DATE 21. 9. 44

(Signed)

James Henchy
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF OWNEY & ARRA.TOWN OR VILLAGE NEWPORT. PARISH NEWPORT. COUNTY TIPPERARY

Location and brief description.

Population 500.

The village of Newport is situated on the Newport River — 3 miles E. of the Limerick - Nenagh Rd. — 3 mls. E. of Castletown, 12 mls. NE. of Limerick & 15 mls. SW. of Nenagh.

From a small Square in the centre of the village, main St. runs Westwards, Cork Road E., Pound St. N. & Gool St. southwards & there is a gradual elevation

SEE PAGE 2.

Is there a Town Hall? NO.

Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

The Glen — A mile & a half from the village where seats are provided along the cliff side. A delightful place for a quiet read in charming surroundings.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

There is a public water supply which is pumped through a Reservoir & filtered once. There is no public Sewerage system.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Castletown Distance 3 mls. Bus? YES - Limerick - ThurlesPublic lighting by—Electricity? YES. Gas? —

DANCING

Dance hall YES Proprietor Thomas M^c Cormack,
The Square.Parochial Hall.The P.P.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Pictures shown (nights)

Pictures & Plays are held occasionally by travelling Companies.

Theatre Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

The Convent of Mercy.

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church.....

Services (Sundays).....

Newport Catholic

9 & 12 A.M.

Church of Ireland

12 A.M.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office.....

In the centre of Main St.

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

General Business

BANKING

Banks.....

*Branch of the Munster & Leinster
on Wednesdays*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores.....

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool ?.....

Location.....

Public Baths ?.....

Location.....

2.

FORM-D.

PARI SH - NEWPORT : BARONY - OWNEY & ARRA : TIPPERARY.

east & west. The houses are mostly two stories
& with a few exceptions are rather unattractive.

There are several eyesores - unoccupied houses
in very bad preservation.

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs.....

Cultural Societies.....

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries.....

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Catholic Church is a large oblong building of Romanesque architecture. It is flat roofed & has a Portico in front supported on round columns with Corinthian capitals.

The entrance door is square-headed and the east windows have plate glass. door. There is a Bell tower to the right of the entrance.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Convent of Mercy Newport (National).
Newport Boys' National.
Toor National.

HOSPITALS

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets

Bonham markets Monthly. Cattle fair
March. April. June. July. October. November

Weekly market day

Half-holiday

Thursday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Bensons Central Garage

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis

Motors (Touring)

James Ryan D. Cork Road.
Mick Lenihan, The Square.
M. Benson Main St.
Jack Creagh do.

Boats (State type)

Edward Delany Cork Road.

Bicycles

Caravans

Horses

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location

Landowner

The Glen

Tipperary Co. Council

Local Improvements Committee

NONE

Secretary

DATE

2⁹ / 11

(Signed)

James Henchy
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF OWNEY & ARRA.TOWN OR VILLAGE BIRDHILL PARISH NEWPORT COUNTY TIPPERARY.

Location and brief description.

Population 20.

Birdhill, a little village of two public Houses a Post Office & a Gardaí Baracks is situated on the main Limerick - Nenagh Road - 3 miles S. of Killaloe & 4 miles N.E. of Castleconnell and 4½ miles N. of Newport.

Is there a Town Hall? No. Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Water from Public wells.
No Sewerage System.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station BIRDHILL Distance — Bus? YES DailyPublic lighting by—Electricity? NO. Gas? NO.

DANCING

Dance hall No. Proprietor —

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas — Pictures shown (nights) —Theatre — Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.) —

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church

Catholic

Services (Sundays)

10.30 A.M.

Church of Ireland

3 P.M.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office

In the village

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

General Business

BANKING

Banks.....

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores.....

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?

Location

Public Baths?

Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Cultural Societies

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Catholic church is a very small oblong building without aisles or chancel. It is Gothic in style, but very plain. There is a small open Belfry.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Birdhill National School.

HOSPITALS

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....

Weekly market day..... Half-holiday.....

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis.....

Motors (Touring).....

Boats (State type).....

Bicycles.....

Caravans.....

Horses.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location..... Landowner.....

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE.....

(Signed)

James Henchy
Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

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

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.*

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.*

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.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

The Customs of St. Martin's Day are still practised in Newport parish. The Bonfire custom of St. John's Eve is also carried on in places but is quickly passing out.

Some of the old customs of Shrove Tuesday night are also practised as are those of November's night.

DATE 2. 9. 1914

(Signed)

James Henchy.
Surveyor.