

I have not photographed —
or attempted to photograph — any
of the views in this district —
partly because of the visibility
α partly because I was afraid
of what the attempts would
be like. They are all very
extensive views α would be difficult
to take in with the camera I have.

Yours faithfully
P.V. Tully.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF Owney & AnnaTOWN OR VILLAGE Portree PARISH Castletown Anna COUNTY Tipperary

TOPOGRAPHY

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

measuring about 4 miles long (North-South) by 3 wide the parish of Castletown Anna, about 6 mls. from Nenagh, is bounded on the east by the long extension of Lough Derg that reaches down to Killaloe. Its northern boundary extends for about 2 miles along the shore of Young's Bay while in the south it includes the northern slopes of the curving range of the Anna mts. The Limerick-Killaloe-Nenagh road runs along the shore of Lough Derg before sweeping eastward into the heart of the parish through the little village of Portree situated in its centre on the moor

[Contd. Page Three.]

GEOLOGY

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

Killaloe Slate Quarries: In the Anna district in the southern portion of the parish is a great vein of Silurian shale. Quarries have been torn into the slopes of the Anna mountains & Killaloe Slate Quarries, Ltd., manufacture slates for export to St. Britain & the continent from the what is claimed to be the best vein of lower Silurian strata in the world. Slates have been manufactured in this district for at least 200 years and there is a rather absurd tradition

(see Page Five)

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 of note.

ANTIQUITIES

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

CASTLES:

On the shores of Lough Derg within the parish are the ruins of three ancient castles. Very little is known of the history of these but according to tradition they were ~~re~~ built by the O'Kennedys and were reduced during the Cromwellian wars by Gen. Ireton. There are no historical notices of them, apparently. The tradition is general in the district related to me by Fr. Clancy, P.P., Mr. Healon, V.T. & others. They date from the middle of 16th Cent. (Gleeson's "History of Ely O'Connell" dealing with Parish of Castleton Anna)

Garrykennedy Castle stands on the pier of the little harbour of Garrykennedy. Only a portion of one wall of what would appear to have been a square keep remains. The fragment is nearly 6 ft. thick standing about 30 ft. high with portion of a passage or corridor within the thickness of the wall still visible. Its situation on the bare little quay overlooking the water gives it an impressive aspect.

Castlough Castle is wonderfully situated on a tiny island (possibly artificial, for the complete building must have almost entirely covered ~~the~~ ~~surface~~ surface) ~~on~~ the little bay at the head of Castlough House. It stands a hundred yards offshore & there could have been no more than a square keep of which only one corner - portion of two walls - towers up above the surface of the water. The rest of the building is a heap of debris & its collapse may have been due to the water undermining the lakeward portion of the castle. Except by water it can only be approached by the private avenue leading to Castlough Ho. - residence of Miss G. Parker.

Townlough Castle still farther south along the lake shore may be seen from the limekiln - henagh road, below on the shore of the lake, on the lands of Mr. P. Quigley, Townlough, Portlaoise. It is similar in condition and style to the others. It stands on the right bank of a stream which forms the southern boundary of the parish and flows into the lake. This stream & the lake form defences on two sides. (Contd. Page Five)

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

Topography (contd.)

northerly spur of the Area hills. Along the shores of L. Derg the lands is very fertile. Also fertile is the portion of the parish where the lands falls away from Portlaoise village northward to the shore of Youghal Bay. A little inferior in quality, but still quite good is the land of the semi-circular valley cupped in the curve of the Area range. On the whole it is a district of small farmers but contains an unusual number of Co. Lab. labourers' cottages in various styles built for the accommodation of the workers at the Killaloe Slate Quarries and its associated industries.

VIEWS:

"THE LOOK-OUT" is the local name for a spot on the Limerick-Killaloe-Nenagh road where a hedge was replaced by a wire paling, ^{an example of Tourist Regard} for some distance, to expose a marvellous view of L. Derg. About a mile and a half from Portlaoise the road swings round a shoulder of Haghtea Hill. Clothed in conifers in the glades of which are the haunts of pic-nickers - a steep slope rises on one side and on the other the ground plunges steeply to the fertile wooded strip of land along the shores of the lake. Southward is a view reminiscent of pictures of the Scottish Highlands - The Crag, highest of the St. Bernagh mts in Clare & its attendant hills of that range, looming over the lower reaches of L. Derg, the waters of which ~~wash~~ wash their base. It is a view that changes in aspect with each passing cloud & the progress of the sun ~~across the sky~~. More extensive is the view to the north-west: - A wide expanse of the lake relieved by little islands, green tufts of verdure ringed, when the water is low, with gold circles of sand and beyond it the undulating ^(laughing) Slieve Blosoms mountains with the white walls of Whitegate Village gleaming below them. Farther to the north is a view far into the plains of Galway to a distant, regular skyline.

The view from Portlaoise Village east over a broad plain to the Devil's Bit & farther to the north the Slieve Blosoms. Due north stretches L. Derg until it almost fades into the distance.

The road over the Pass between Towninna (1517 ft) and Haghtea Hill (1108 ft) affords 3 wonderful prospects. Ascending the northern slope one looks back over a valley cupped in the curving sweep of the Area mts. to which the great heaps of quarry waste from

Topography (Cont'd.)

The slate works serve as foothills - a glistening grey against the brown. To the left, looking out through the open side of the valley, L. Derg stretches away northwards, a broad zig-zag sheet of water becoming misty as it recedes into the grey-blue plains of Galway in the dim distance. Straight ahead two or three craggy little hills in north Tipperary break the flatness of the plain that lies between L. Derg & the undulating Slieve Baloons peeping from behind the eastern shoulder of the Anna ridge. At the "Graves of the Leinstones" (see Antiquities) on the highest portion of the gap one has a view of the St. Benagh mountains & L. Derg (previously described for "look-out") with a glimpse of the distant Clare hills near Lahinch through a gap. Southward spreads a broad plain that is Co. Limerick with the Shannon a broad gleaming ribbon winding across one side of it towards a distant broken skyline of Clare hills. Below can be seen the town of Killaloe, and round the shoulder of Tountinna mt. the southern terminus of the Silvermines. In the middle distance and, in the far distance, a glimpse of the blue mountains of the Dingle peninsula in Kerry.

Walk:- From Portroe road past the slate Quarries over the gap between Tountinna and Hagtea. Down from the summit of the gap at the "Leinstones' graves" to the main road above the lake ^{via a "baker"} back via the "look-out" to Portroe. Distance about 8 miles. If a bicycle is taken all but about 3 miles can be ~~walked~~ cycled while it would not be too difficult to push a bike over the pass. It is a really worthwhile circuit and the following places are convenient to the route: The slate Quarries - St. Patrick's Well, Clonony - stone & cross, Hagtea hill, "Leinstones' graves", Tountinna castle, Castleton Manor & churchyard, & Castlelough. TOUNTINNA (1517)

Climb:- So far as climbing is concerned ~~it~~ is not very difficult of ascent from the gap mentioned above but it is hardly worth the trouble when one has viewed the scenes already described. One has a comprehensive view of all of these, but the scene is less picturesque because ~~un~~less intimate. It is however a very extensive prospect and affords the opportunity of surveying the extensive range that cuts Co. Tipperary in two and extends into Offaly. From the Silvermines in the south, with Keeper Hill (2279) presiding over them, hills uniform in size & form sweep north to the gapped razor-backed

Topography (contd.)

ridge of the Devil's Bit north of which are the undulating Slieve Breen Mts. to complete a great natural barrier.

Geology (contd.)

that the slates of Brian Boru's Palace at Kincora were from these quarries.

Old Mines at Comeragh & Garrykenedy.

Tunnels into the slopes rising from the Foughal Bay shore of L. Deeg in the northern portion of the parish on the lands attached to Garrykenedy House (now - Mr. J.B. O'Driscoll, The Bungalow, Newton, near) mark an outcrop of a vein of minerals that is said to extend from the Silvermine Mts. The mine has not been worked since 1848 & the ore is believed to have contained percentage of lead, copper & silver. It was only worked for a short time.

In the main this is a limestone district with, in the south, traces of red sandstone. Around Garrykenedy traces of a stone like a mixture of sandstone & limestone in which are embedded pieces of waterworn gravel may be noticed.

Antiquities (contd.)

These castles are Norman in style but then the O'Kennedys had as neighbours the Butlers of Desmond and the Burkes of Clare.

"The Heinstermen's Graves"

At the highest point of the gap where the road crosses the Ana mts. between Tountinna and Haghtea Hills is a site called the "Graves of the Heinstermen" at sight it appears to be a much disturbed megalithic cemetery. It is situated about a quarter of a mile south of the lone cottage that stands in the gap and is connected by legend with the argument at Kincora which led to Maolmordha, King of Heinstet taking the Danish side at the battle of Clontarf.

It consists of an alignment of about 100 small stones of the slaty variety native to the place ~~now~~ and which are between 18 ins & 2 ft high. A few yards to the N.W. of these and out of

Antiquities (contd.)

alignment is a pillar stone about 3 feet 6 ins high. About 10 yards farther north is a low mound, overgrown with heather, like a small cairn. Some 500 or 600 yds. ~~back~~^{north} along the road there is at the roadside a huge native boulder called Lachtreeghon (Stone of the King of Leinster).

The story is that Maolmordha, King of Leinster, was bringing tribute to Brian Boru & in assisting his men over the mountain pass he tore a button from his tunic. When he reached Kincora he asked King Brian's wife - his own sister - to sew it on for him. She, annoyed, told him he was a poor man to bring tribute to Brian when he could be King of Ireland himself. In a temper Maolm. repaired to an apartment where Murcadh, son of Brian, and a Kinsman, Conaing, were playing chess. Maolm. gave Murc. some advice about a move which resulted in the defeat of the latter, who gibeled Maolm. about the Battle of Glenmama, Co. Wicklow, where the Dalcaissians defeated Maolmordha & the Danes. Maolmordha left Kincora in a temper & ~~then~~ King Brian sent a messenger after him to bring him back. He struck the messenger down at the bridge of Killaloe. A party of the Dalcaissians came out in search of the messenger & coming up with the Leinstermen at the mountain pass slew them all. The King of Leinster asked to be buried ~~where~~ on a place overlooking his own territory so he was interred away from the rest of his men at Lachtreeghon.

Many variations of the story are told but the acknowledged historians agree that Maolmordha was slain by Conaing at Clontarf. If this is so, & if the mound on the site is a cairn, District Justice Gleeson's opinion that Brian & Maolmordha took the place of some earlier characters ^{of earlier date} in the story seems feasible. (Ref. - Articles by Dist. Justice D. F. Gleeson - other issues of "Keshagh Guardian" 15th, 22nd & 29th Sept. 1934) Lachtreeghon is in the townland of Tournalough, Parish of Castletown Anna. The graves themselves are in the townland of Templekelly, Parish of Ballina. The land is commonage.

Old Church at Castletown:

Two miles S.W. of Portroe beside the ruins of Castletown Manor - former residence of Protestant Bishops of Killaloe - stand the walls of a little ^{ruined} church. It is on the site of the old Parish Church. The surrounding burial ground is part Protestant and part Catholic.

It is not definitely known when ~~the~~ it was taken over by the Established Church but the fact that the first Protestant bishop of Killaloe ~~who~~ who died 1613 lived within a few yards of it and is buried there would point to the end of 16th or beginning of 17th cent.

The ruin still remaining is supposed to be 18th cent. measures approx 60' x 30' with a small annex to the west gable. It is rectangular with Romanesque windows & doorway. Just the vacancies in the walls completely devoid of all traces of mullions or tracery remain. The east window was set in an almost semicircular outward curve of the gable.

Close against the north wall is a flat square slab with an inscription in Latin round the borders only fragments of which can be deciphered owing to leakage.

This stone is believed to be mark the burial place of Maci Bruen 1st Protestant Bishop of Killaloe.

A local story about this stone is that it marks the grave of a priest buried within the original church & when the building was reconstructed the wall was moved in so as to keep the priest outside the church! There is a projection of about 3 feet of the east gable beyond the line of the north wall which is pointed out in support of this story.

Also in this graveyard is a slab to the memory of Griffith Pany a slate quarry worker who died 1847. He was from near Bangor, Wales & there is an inscription in Welsh. Beside this is the grave of a 3 year old child named Morris - died 1839 - also from Bangor. (Authority: Fr. O'Leary P.P. - an acknowledged authority on historical matters in this area)

Stone Lighter Hill Curiosities (continued)

It is said they were made by St. Patrick's mule & horse on the occasion on which he rested at the well in Clonghien. Situation on Commonage.

"Monelystone, Coronade" There is a legend about a massive rock at the rear of Mr. John Gredy's residence Coronade, Portree. 1 mile north of the village which says that a "man not of this world" appeared to two workmen engaged nearby about 20 years ago & told them that there was treasure underneath it. Several unsuccessful efforts have been made - the traces of these are visible. It is on the edge of a plantation the property of Miss J. Parker, Castleknock No. Portree

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

Owney and Arra

TOWN OR VILLAGE

Rostree

PARISH

Castletown Arra

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

Derg

Nearest point to town (distance)

9 mls.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown Trout, Pike, Perch.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

1 1/2 lbs

(Rarely fished except in Daffing season)

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

Daffing Season

(something begins 3rd week in April)

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout

Mafly - Afterwards light & Dark Olives, Bottle Green
Sedges & Red Cherry Spinners are sometimes used.

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:

Parker's, Castletown Ho., P. Collins & J. Kennedy,
J. J. Donnellan, do.; W. W. Gath, do.; J. Ryan do.
J. Willis, do.; Denis Lynch, do.; No fixed
daily rate.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Henagh, Killaloe, also Miss S. Parker, Castletown,

Mr. P. Collins & J. Kennedy, Yougal Lodge (Parish of Yougal lina)

— Capt Bolger keeps a few punts this season.

Local Angling Club

None

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 ?.....

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.....

Barony of Duney & Ana

Village of Portlao

Parish of Castletown Ana

County Tipperary

Angling

The portion of L. Derg along the shore west of Ard Portlao village is very deep and is said not to be one of the best portions of the lake for dapping. Good trout, however, are caught by trolling early in the season with live minnow or spoons. In recent years flies mentioned in Form B have been tried with some success.

In the north this parish touches Young's Bay, an excellent dapping portion of the lake. The "village" of Gangkenny where there is a small quay is on this portion of the shore.

Trout 7 & 8 lbs are not uncommon during the dapping season. Dapping with the "Daddy long legs" is practised by some of the local people during the late summer.

The mayfly has been known to come on as early as 20th April but as a rule comes between 5th & 10th May.

Very big pike are caught by trolling which is a favourite practice locally and perch are numerous. It also holds Pollan, loach, rudd and tench. Once in a while a salmon is caught but the lake is not worth fishing for them.

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH

Castletown Area

BARONY

Coney & Area

COUNTY

Tipperary

TOWN OR VILLAGE

Bective

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs, (state kind)	Public Rooms			
None							None
Mr. J. Parker, Castletown H.	6	1	1 Hall	-	No	keeps taking guests during diff. seasons - again (Lancs) - 2000/1000	
Mr. P. Collins, Bective	1	one	1 Bath	-	no.	2 cottages - keep about 2 guests	
						keeps reserved with 9 T.B.	

DATE

2/4/75

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed)

P. A. Tully

Surveyor.

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 Younghal Kenagh Harriers { John Maden. Capt. & Mrs. Boyle,
Younghal Lodge,
Kenagh.

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:

Duck shooting on Lough Derg, stated to
be fairly good in lower reaches of the lake.
Some grouse on the Ann mountains
but the going there is pretty tough.
all free shooting.

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

None

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.

There is not Boat or Yacht club at present
on L. Derg but up until a few years ago an
Annual Regatta was held on the lake by a Committee
at Dromineer - a few miles north of this parish.

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 None.

Hurling Portree Hurling Club

Handball no club Handball alley? at Portree Village.

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) There is a licensed dancing "deck" at Caskettown 1/2 mls. from Portree where open air dances are held during the summer.

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.

None at Present Promoters Annual Regatta lapsed.

DATE 2/4/45

(Signed) B. V. Tuohy
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)

BARONY OF Ourney & Anna
 TOWN OR VILLAGE Portloe PARISH Castletown Anna COUNTY Tipperary
 Location and brief description. Population about 100

Seven miles N-E of Killelloe & the same dist. W. of Nenagh Portloe village straggles down the eastern slope of a high ridge over which the Nenagh-Killelloe-Kimerick bus route climbs. Scarcely two of its houses are alike in style or size but are fairly neatly kept. Near the top of the steeply sloping street is the Catholic church.

From the village is a wonderful view of L. Derg & the wide plain reaching east to the Devil's Bit in which the town of Kimerick can be clearly seen.

Two miles N. of Portloe is a dozen houses & a pub by a little quay on L. Derg so by the name of "Garry Kennedy Village".

Is there a Town Hall?

no

Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

none

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Two hand pump supply the water.
There is no sewerage system.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Nenagh Distance 7 miles Bus? On Kimerick-Nenagh Bus route.
 Public lighting by—Electricity? none Gas? none

DANCING

Dance hall New Hall, Portloe Proprietor Mal. Shouldice, Portloe Village

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas New Hall, Portloe Pictures shown Fri & Sun.
 (nights)

Theatre

none

Kind of shows
 (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Branch of Co. Col lending library*
in Portree N. S.

Private Lending Libraries *none.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *Catholic Church, Portree Village* ^{*St. Patrick*} Services (Sundays) *9 & 11.*
Church of Ireland, Castleton *11 O'Clock*
(Portree 1 M. S.)
No others:

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *In Portree Village.*

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

BANKING

Banks *none.*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *none*

Photographic Stores *none.*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *Bathing in C. Derg. (no facilities)* Location

Public Baths? *none* Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

None

Cultural Societies

None

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

*Killaloe Slate Quarries (incl. Portlaoise)
Tubex Ltd. & the Badlite Co. Ltd (Mfrs. of Bakelite varnishes)
(Mfrs. of toothpaste tubes etc.)
The 3 companies are associated Managing
Director Mr. J. B. O'Driscoll, The Bungalow, Hertan, Limerick.*

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~~ The Catholic Church, Portlaoise,
is a rectangular Gothic building. Built 1873 - Third
church on site which was once a fort - a fine worked
Dun Emer capel leads to the altar - also contains
a beautiful Mary Clarke window in wonderful shades of
blue & purple.*

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

None

HOSPITALS

None

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets None

Weekly market day.....none..... Half-holiday.....Wednesday.....

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Petrol Station: Mr. T. J. Kenny
Postree Village.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis: Maurice Fitzgerald, Portree Village
 Gas: Mr. Gault, Portree Village.

Meters (Touring)..... 2.00

Boats (State type) Row Boat at Present
Parham, Castleburgh Ho., P. Collins, J. J. Donnellan
W. M. G. Smith, J. Ryan, O. Willis. Denis Lynch all gang kindly.
Mr. J. B. O'Driscoll has a number of motor boats
as have some others but they are not in use now.

Bicycles *now.*Caravans *none.*Horses 

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location None Landowner

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary

(Signed)

DATE _____

Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

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

The O'Kennedys a Dalcaissian clan were the old Irish lords of this territory & held sway up to the Williamite wars when their country was ravaged and grants made to settlers. The principal family of this latter class still remaining in the district is that of the Parkers of Castlelough House, whose principal seat was in Co. Limerick. (Gleeson's "History of Ely O'Carroll")

A priest of this parish - Fr. Tabbot - was transported in 1798 for activities in connection with the Insurrection. (Verbal from Fr. Clary P.P.)

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.

Manor of Castletown: (On the lands of Miss J. Parker, Castlelough House, Portlaoise. It is beside County road 241 from Portlaoise.)

At the entrance to the avenue leading to Castlelough House stand the extensive ruins of what was once a large residence. There is a modern house on the site and the ruin has been so interfered with as to make it impossible to gauge the style of its architecture. One portion like a square tower looms over the modern house which is unoccupied. The rest forms a sort of backyard for the house and there is nothing can be said about it except that the original building must have been a very commodious one.

It was known as the "Manor of Castletown" and was the residence of the first Protestant Bishop of Killaloe named Mac i Briem son of an apostate Irishman Catholic. Some of his letters addressed from the "Manor of Castletown" are given in Gleeson's "History of Ely O'Carroll." He died in the year 1613. There is no record of how long the Manor remained the residence of the Bishops of Killaloe but in 1800 it was used as a residence by the Parkers of Castlelough.

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.

Cross on Laghtea Hill: (Lands - Commonage)

On the summit of Laghtea Hill (1,088 ft.) most westerly of the three principal hills of the Ana Mts. is the remnant of a huge concrete cross erected by Fr. Macnamara, ^{formerly} P.P. of Castle town Ana in 1933. Its erection cost £1,100 - contributed by parishioners at home & in America. It stood 72 feet in height; ~~it~~ was ~~also~~ outlined with electric bulbs and ~~was~~ equipped with a generator so that it could be lighted up on feast days or occasions of religious celebration. A couple of years ago it was damaged by lightning and shortly afterwards blown down in a wind storm. When lighted it was ~~sd.~~ to be visible in six counties. Only its stump, rising out of a jumbled heap of masonry now remains.

Print of St. Patrick's Mule - Laghtea Hill.

In the townland of Cloneybrien on the eastern slopes of Laghtea Hill is a large flat ~~place~~ bearing impressions, ~~that resemble~~ one of which resembles the print of the hoof of a mule or pony & the other that of a hound's foot.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

St. Patrick's Well, Cloneybrien.

On the lands of Mr. Denis Ryan, Cloneybrien Ho., Portrae, about a mile south of Portrae village is a well known as St. Patrick's Well. It is situate in the field directly in front of Mr. Ryan's house. Local tradition says that St. Patrick when journeying through the country rested at this well & blessed it. The stone on Laghtea Hill is also mentioned in connection with this well. There is a ~~other~~ ^{sketch} tradition that there was in days gone by a pattern to ~~the well~~ which was ended by the landlord.

At present there is a tame trout in the well which was put in as a "bait" about eight years ago. It will take worms from the hands of the children of the locality.

(Signed) P. V. Tully
Surveyor.

DATE

2/4/45.