

Quinn N. E. 3

FORM A.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF.....GLANWILLIAM.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH BALLYBRICKEN... COUNTY.....LIMERICK.....

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

Very good views of inland scenery may be had from the summit of the hills in the parish. Land is limestone quality, producing very fine livestock and bloodstock.

### GEOLOGY

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

The hills all about Ballybricken appear to be solid masses of rock. Suddenly you come upon cliffs from 50 to 70' high, and you get the impression that you will suddenly come upon the sea. There are at least six hills in the parish, all with the same jagged rocky features. Very unusual for inland hills, and varying in height from 300 to 600' above sea level.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

There are two good houses within the parish. One at Sandville, Ballyneety, the property of Mr. J.T. Grene-Barry, whose family have been there since 1656. The other is at Coole, Grange, the residence of Colonel O'Carroll (R.A.M.C. Retired). They house no works of art or libraries. There are however, some good specimens of old furniture - Sheraton Chippendale style. Never open to public.



## 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.

At Friarstown (Grange) on the north bank of the Camogue river there was a Franciscan Friary, founded in the 13th Century for Conventual Friars by the Clan Gibbon. In the 16th Century the Friary and lands were granted to a family named Browne. Early in the 17th century it was granted to Trinity College. It was called Ballynambraher Beg to distinguish it from Friarstown Abbey. To the North West (in parish of Fedamore) only the foundation remains. No care was taken of remains.

At Caherelly (originally known as Chatherelky, Kaherelky and Caherelny) The remains of the present Church dates from the 13th century. Was founded by the Abbot of Wethney. Covered with tatch. It measures 32' x 20'. Walls 20' high x 3' thick. Had two south windows divided by mullions (now gone). The Chancel arch was pointed and of well cut limestone. This 13th century church was erected on a site formerly occupied by a church founded by St. Ailbe, who was reared by Palladuis. Ailbe had a Church, Monastery and School at Emly, about 20 miles to the East. He lived in the time of St. Patrick.

At Carrigparson are the remains of a Dominican House dating from the 16th century. Only six feet or so of the north wall remains. The foundations were 35' by 21'. It had a detached tower, the ruins of which are also traceable. According to another tradition this was a Franciscan foundation connected with Friarstown and was also known as Willestowne. No care taken of remains.

At Rochestown there was a Monastery of Dominicans sometimes confused with Carrigparson or Willestowne, dating from early times. In the middle of the last century the walls stood, but were levelled before the present century. The foundations are still traceable. Toberfuaird, or the cold well near it was supposed to be curative, if not holy. No care taken of foundation.

At Luddenbeg. are remains of a church founded in the 12th century. During the Bruce campaign, Norreys, Lord of Any seized the church property and cattle to resist the Scots. It was in ruins in the 17th century and only the foundation and some slabs now remain. On a slab there was a rude carving of the crucifixion of which there is now no trace. Measured 32' x 24'. No care taken of remains.

Caherelly, Rochestown and Luddenbeg Churches and Carrigparson are situated in burial grounds, still in use.

## CASTLES.

Caherelly (West Castle) Dates from 13th century and was built by the Burkes of Clanwilliam. William the last of that branch of the Burkes died there about 1583. The Castle and lands then passed to William's only daughter and child, who had married O'Heyne, formerly a poor scholar from Connaught, who was on a visit to the Abbey at Friarstown (see beginning of this section) Castle was held by O'Heyne family until end of 17th century, at odd periods. During Cromwells time the sons of O'Heyne were in possession, and lands were granted to Sir William King. According to family papers of Col. Furnell, Surgeon Owen Comrory (?) was in possession in 1677. He sold to Patrick Furnell who died in 1750 and whose table tomb is in Caherelly Church Yard. The following is the romance of O'Heyne and Burke's daughter. The lands from the river Camogue to the Shannon at O'Brien's Bridge Co. Clare, belonged to the Burkes and is called the Barony of Clanwilliam, so named after William, the last of the Caherelly branch above mentioned. The Desmonds were Lords of the lands at the other side of the Camogue and the two families were at constant war with each other. About 1540, Burkes of Castle Connell were attacked

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



## ANTIQUITIES (contd).

by the Fitzgeralds, and sent to Caherelly for help. Burke of Caherelly went at once and took all his fighting men, leaving at Caherelly only his wife and daughter and some farm hands and Tadhg O'Heyne, who was now the tutor of Burke's daughter. On the night of Burke's departure, Caherelly was attacked by the Desmonds. It was through the strategy of O'Heyne that the castle, lands and cattle were saved. The leader and several other Fitzgeralds were killed. After this O'Heyne was treated with great honour and made to stay as one of the family. When, however, it was seen that Burke's daughter was in love with O'Heyne, the latter was sent back to Connaught. The maiden pined for her lover and although Burke proposed several suitable young men from the neighbouring clans, she would have none but O'Heyne. Finally the father agreed and the marriage took place. Fitzgerald in "History of Limerick", says:- In the reign of Charles I. there was not a gentleman between Ballinagarde and O'Brien's Bridge who was not a Burke, except O'Heyne of Caherelly. Caherelly Castle was a fine building and early in the last century was remodelled and lived in by the Furnell family. The present owner is Mr. McCarthy who lives close by the Castle in a good house built in 1800 by William Hannan, according to an inscription over the door. About five years ago one side of the Castle collapsed and amongst the fallen masonry was found a ball of iron about 8" in diam. and now in the possession of Mr. McCarthy. The Castle is in receipt of no care and is crumbling away. Mr. McCarthy endeavoured to have it preserved but the authorities were not interested. The Castle is 60' high and 30' wide. There was also another Burke Castle at Caherelly East, known as the Black Castle and it was here O'Heyne lived until the death of his father-in-law. It was levelled before 1840 and only the site now remains.

7 There was also a castle at Carrigparson on a solid mass of rock about one acre in extent and about 30' above the level of surrounding field. In some places the face of the rock is perpendicular and at others, sloping in a semi-circular fashion. This also was a Burke stronghold but in the late part of 16th century, Burke was dispossessed and castle and lands granted to a man named Holcroft. Early in the following century Anselm O'Brien was in possession. From O'Brien it passed to Creagh who, with his wife retained possession till about 1625. By the year 1655 the Castle was laid in ruins and now only the foundations remain. About half mile to the East of Carrigparson is the Church of same name already mentioned and leading to it is a double row of very old white thorn trees. I am unable to ascertain whether it was a road from the Castle to the Church or whether it was an ancient road. The Church and Burial ground of Carrigparson are about one mile off the road.

8 Ballybricken Court (or Castle) This also was a Burke Castle and the earliest records of it show that in 1540 (approx) it was held by Richard, brother of Maoilre Burk of Ballinagarde. About 1584, it was held by Donnell O'Heyne, who was probably a son of Tadhg O'Heyne, who married the daughter of William Burke of Caherelly. From him it passed jointly to his sons Edmond and David. The next occupant (about 1655) was Clanchy. It was then a broad tower, gabled and battlemented, with a house attached. It was then granted to Sir G. Ingoldsby whose grand-mother was Oliver Cromwell's Aunt. Sir G. Ingoldsby married a daughter of James Gould of Ludden Castle - of which there is now no trace or knowledge. He had a daughter who married Hugh Massey, after which the family left Ballybricken and lands and castle passed to "Red Carroll"



## ANTIQUITIES (contd).

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## ANTIQUITIES (contd.)

in 1743 (approx.) Hugh Massey was the ancestor of the present Lord Massey of Killakee, Co. Dublin who formerly lived at The Hermitage, Castleconnell. The Castle is a splendid old pile and is 50' high 31' wide. The walls are 7½' thick. It had four storeys, the lowest being vaulted, portion of which still remains. The stairs was circular and of stone, but there is no trace of any of the steps, only the circular walls remain, with here and there, a supporting stone projecting. It is possible to climb as far as the first story above the ground, off which are two fortified projections, one on the south corner and one on the north. These have circular holes about 3" in diam. drilled through solid stone and are directed down at about an angle of 45°. There are four holes in each apartment. The entrance to each is only about 4' high and 15" wide and could only accommodate about three persons. There are also two circular holes of similar dimensions to those mentioned above on the floor of the projections. These were for defensive purposes. The doorway of the Castle which was on the north-east side was Gothic and at either side of it were square holes, about 4" across, drilled through the 7½' of masonry. These were also for defence of the Castle doorway. (see picture). It is in a good state of preservation but in receipt of no care whatever. The northern sides are in very good state of repair, but the south side from which I took the picture, it is rather battered, due perhaps to attack from the outside by beseiging forces.

In the Barony of Clanwilliam, there were in all 56 Burke Castles.

P.S. R. Ingoldsbye of Ballybricken Castle was attainted by Parliament at Dublin in 1689.

STONE CIRCLES.

On the summit of Boohil Breag hill are the remains of a stone circle. The foundation is in good state of preservation, but there are no standing stones, with the exception of a "liogan" stone in the centre of ring, which is 9' high x 4 x 1. No excavations ever took place there.

PILLAR STONES.

Within the parish of Ballybricken are three pillar stones. One on the farm of Mr. Blackwell, High Park, one on the summit of Boohill Breag Hill already mentioned above and the third on the lands of Mr. F. Grene-Barry at Sandville, Ballyneety. These are in a straight line and lead to Lough Greer. There are others still outside the parish and which will be dealt with in later surveys.

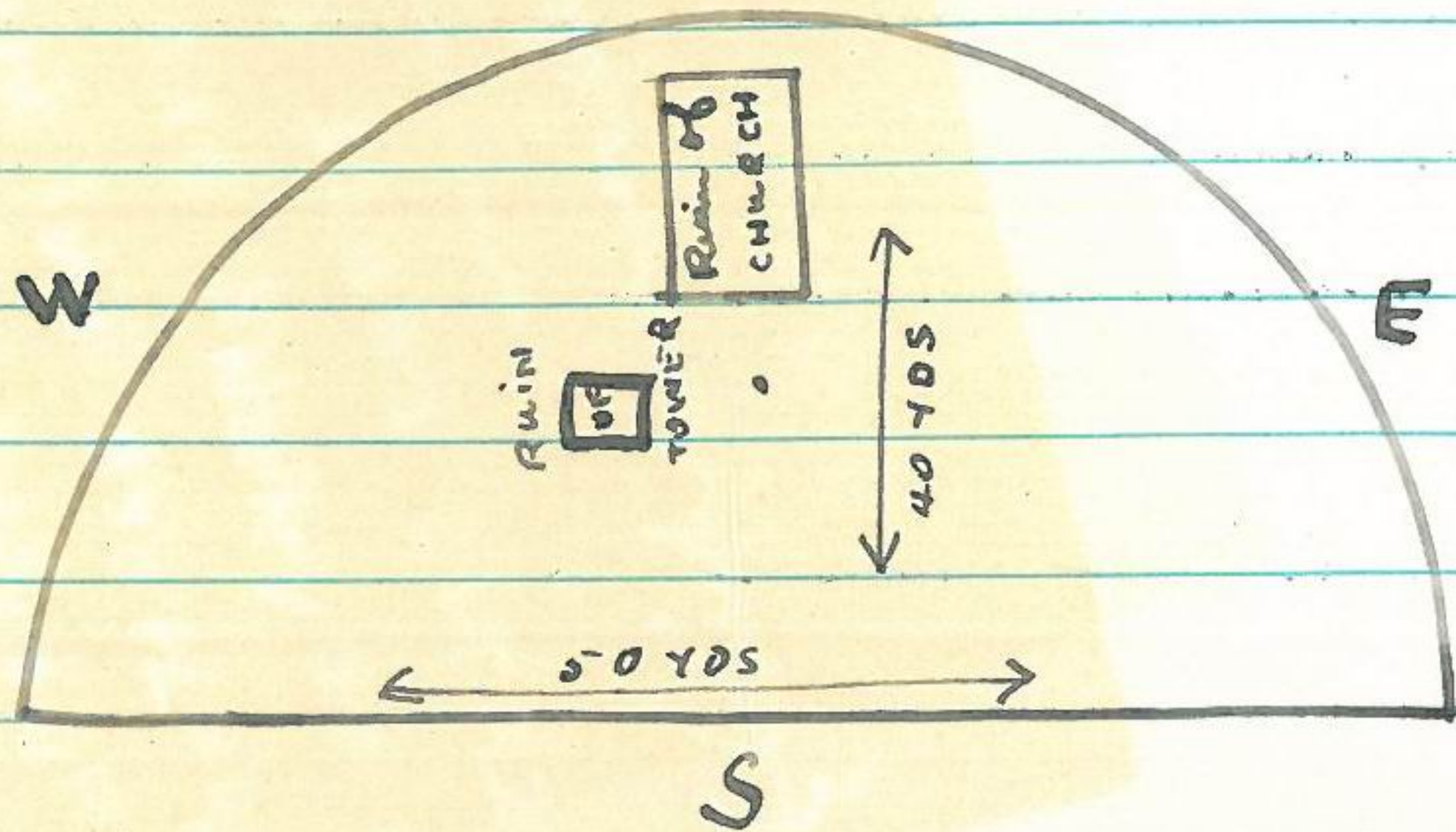
The stone on Mr. Blackwell's land measures 9' high by 8' at widest part and 4' at thickest part. The description of second stone given above. The stone on Mr. Barry's land is like a cock of hay and is 5' high and 5' in diam. at base.

CIRCULAR FORT.

On the top of a hill at High Park is a well preserved circular fort about 33 yards in diam. and 8' high. It adjoins the lands of Messrs. Knox and Blackwell and is about 400 yards to the south of the road.



# Plan of Carriq parson Church Yard.



The most of the boundary wall is of very old masonry work. The shape of church yard is rather unusual.

P.J.K.L.



Inscription on wall of Ballybritter Church.

In memory of the good and faithful Priests of the united parish of Rochestown and Caberelly who in dark and evil days did so much to keep the faith alive in this parish.

Rev. Donogh O'Heane, 1704 A.D.

Denis Mc Namara, 1730

Lawrence Ryan, 1750

Dr. Mitchell, 1766

John Ryan, 1786

Lawrence Mc Elpath, 1792

ELLY Hanley. 1801

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James Green-Barry 1909.

REV. W. RYAN. P.P.



Inscriptions at Calverly Churchyard.

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DEATHS CRUEL DART THIS COR  
PS TO GRAVE DID TRUST HIS  
SOULS IN BLISS HIS ACTS PER  
FORMES THE DUST THE FEEBLES  
TREASURE THE LETTERS SURE  
HOPES FOR LIFE IN TOMBED O  
THE BLOSSOM HIS FAME SHINES  
PURE BRIGHT BLESSED COY OF  
SPLENDID TALLENTS HE RETOD  
RESORTE WHICH FAITH BRAVE HOP  
ES AND PIETY DOTH ADORN  
WAITED ON BY GIFTS NYMPHS AND  
SKILLED HEALERS LAID UP HERE  
IN MATTHEW BY NAME HE WAS.

---

HERE LYETH THE BO  
DY OF THADY M<sup>c</sup>KED  
GH WHO DYED Y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> DAY  
OF MARCH 1723 AGED  
63 YEARS

---

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ROBERT  
FREEMAN WHO DEPARTED  
THIS LIFE JULY 1<sup>e</sup> 1741 AGED  
41 HIS TOMBE WAS ERECTED  
BY MARY FREEMAN THE LORD  
BE MERCIFUL TO THE SOULS  
OF THOSE IN HIS TOMBE  
AMEN

(Copied down as they appear on stones)







**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 :

*Nearest links would be Limerick City & Castleroy, both seven miles from Point of Ballybricken.*

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? } yearly there are meetings held under P.to.P.

Situation of course } rules in the adjoining parishes of Ballybricken on the East & Knockra to the West.

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds Limerick County & Scartee Black & Tans

Harriers Limerick Harriers.

Beagles None

**COURSING**

Name of Club / Meeting held annually? /

**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 :

Rough shooting to be had over the entire Parish, made up of Snipe, Curlew and an occasional pheasant. Wild duck found along the Camogue River. W. Geese & Duck very plentiful at Lough Gur which is only two miles distant.

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

Shooting in Ballybricken free. At Lough Gur the rights are owned by Count de Selis, who usually rents them.

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 *Local team in existence* } Practice at  
 Hurling *do do* } Ballyneety.  
 Handball *None* Handball alley?   
 Soccer *None*  
 Rugby *None*  
 Cricket *None*  
 Hockey *None*  
 Bowls *None*  
 Bowling (on public roads) *None*  
 Lawn Tennis *Yes. court adjacent N.S. at Ballyneety* Kinds of court *Green*  
 Croquet *None*  
 Billiards *None*  
 Badminton *None*  
 Table Tennis *None*  
 Bridge Club *None*

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) *cross road dance dance (Platform) held at Ballyneety cross roads twice weekly Wednesday & Sunday. Also on the evenings of Church Holidays.*

**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.

..... Promoters.....  
*None*  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

DATE *4th July, 1942.*

(Signed) *P. J. L. Lynch*  
 Surveyor.







# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF B. lan William

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballybricken COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population

Ballybricken comprises the ancient parishes of Rockestown, Calerally, Bohermore & portion of Inch St Lawrence, in the arch diocese of Cashel & Emly. Situated six miles south east of Limerick City. Very hilly country, land fertile & mainly limestone. There is no village within the parish.

Is there a Town Hall? N. O. Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

None

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Bda & Drunkken Distance 6 miles Bus? G.S.R. Service  
(Both six miles) through parish daily.

Public lighting by—Electricity? None Gas? None

### DANCING

Dance hall None Proprietor

There is a dance hall in the village of Ballyneety, just outside Parish Boundary, where dances are held every Sunday night—except during Lent.

### CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Travelling companies Pictures shown occasionally since performances  
(nights) in Hall in Ballyneety, just outside parish boundary

Theatre None Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)



LIBRARIES

Public Libraries None

Private Lending Libraries None

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R.6 Church <sup>8.30 1st Sunday</sup> Ballybricken & ~~Bahernon~~ Services (Sundays) 10.30 Official time

on 1st Sunday of each month there is an additional service at 8.30 AM. 9.30 Official time.

Bahernon

The Protestant Community attend service at Bahernonish & Bahernony. At Bahernonish the service takes place at 12 noon. There is no service at Bahernony now owing to restricted travel facilities. The officiating clergyman is from another parish.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Baherelly Cross Roads

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

BANKING

Banks None

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers None

Photographic Stores None

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? None Location None

Public Baths? None Location None

River Camogue at end of Parish is only bathing place.



**SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.**

Social Clubs..... *None*  
.....  
.....

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)

*There is the remains of a column of masonry created in 1829 by Mr Roche-Kelly, the local Land Lord, to commemorate the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act, on the summit of Hill, known as "Buacal Breaga". Only portion remains as it was struck by lightning some years ago & shattered. No inscription remains.*

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

*None*  
.....  
.....

**SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

*There are three mixed National Schools situated at Rochestown, Cahilly and Bohermore. No college within the Parish.*

**HOSPITALS**

*None*  
.....



**FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY**

Monthly fairs and markets..... *None*

Weekly market day..... */* Half-holiday..... *None (no shops)*

**GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS**

*None. In the village of Ballynety which adjoins Ballybricken, petrol may be obtained in tins, (during normal times) from Mr O'Loole.*

**CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :**

Taxis..... *None presently.*

Motors (Touring)..... *None presently.*

Boats (State type)..... *None.*

Bicycles..... *None for hire.*

Caravans..... *None.*

Horses..... *None for hire.*

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

*Country side at large. There is no regular camping site but trippers are frequent and pitch tent wherever convenient. Land-owners have no objections.*

Local Improvements Committee..... *None*

Secretary..... */*

DATE..... *4th July, 1942.* (Signed)..... *P. J. N. Lynch.*  
Surveyor.



## HISTORIC SITES

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

There are traces of ancient roads over Boohill Breag Hill (Ballyneety) One over Meaney's land, through Ballymacrease. Another from Bruff by Ludden Church to Kilcoolin. At Boohill Breag, Edward Bruce was camped while awaiting the O'Briens of Thomond to attack Limerick (early in 14th century). The English, however, came to terms with him and he (Edward Bruce) withdrew. Here also camped Hugh O'Donnell on his way to Kinsale. He is reputed to have used the ancient road mentioned above, which passed through Ballymacrease.

## 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.*

In Ballybricken was born the late John O'Grady, world champion weight thrower.

Here was also raised the famous racehorse known as "The Lamb"

In Rochestown Churchyard little remains of Mr. Croker, who originated the saying "I doubt it" (says Croker). When Croker was dying his local Clergyman was endeavouring to console him as he was very lonely leaving his place behind him. Ballynagarle, (his mansion and estate) were very beautiful but the Clergyman was trying to assure him he was going to a nicer place and it was then Mr. Croker used the phrase above mentioned. While Rochestown is in Ballybricken Ballynagarde House is in Donaghmore Parish, which will be treated in following survey report.

In Caherelly Graveyard was buried, the Rev. Elly Hanley, a very famous priest who died in 1801. When dying he requested that his coffin be opened when it reached Caherelly for burial, "When the people assembled would see a great sight" The people, however, were fearful and the coffin was not opened. Some say, it could not be opened

## 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.*

On the hill at the back of Stonepark, Ballyneety, known as Boohill Breag (False Boy) there is a pillar stone of the following dimensions - 9' high, 4' wide and about 1' thick. Viewed from the side and at a distance it looks very like a person on the watch. The following legend is related. "An Irish Army was deceived by this stone when coming from the South in the early morning to surprise the Danes who were in occupation of the valley. They relinquished their purpose on observing the sentinel, as they thought on the hill watching their movements. Hence the name which they gave the Hill (B.B.) when they discovered how they had been deceived"

The pillar stone is regarded as a "liogan" stone, several of which are in the district. See antiquities section of this report.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

At Rochestown, within the property formerly comprising the Ballynagarde demesne there is a Holy Well known as "Tober Amran" (Well of the Song). Origin of name unknown but is strongly believed that well removed at one time owing to clothes having been washed in it by some of the wives of Cromwellian soldiers. It is supposed to have a cure for sore eyes and visits are paid to it throughout the year. In 1922, Mr. Courtney Croker, the owner of the demesne (now divided by the I.L.C.) built a very fine protecting shrine about the well to save it from desecration. There is about it a goodly array of broken stonery and pottery, brought perhaps, when intact, as offerings for favours received. This well is beside the ancient burial ground of Rochestown, where formerly was situated an early Church, of which there is now no trace. There is a right-of-way from the main road through the farm of Mr. Quane. I have seen since in Westropp's reference book that the well was also known as Toberfuaird or Toberfuran (cold well). "It was supposed curative if not holy". Was closed in, in 1830 by John Croker who prevented people visiting it. The reopening may have given rise to the legend of its removal

(Signed) ..... P. O. K. Lynch.....  
Surveyor.

DATE ..... 11th July, 1942.....