

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

[BARONY OF] Loshlea (Foot of the Hills)

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballyorgan PARISH Glencolman / Ballyorgan COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

Ballyorgan which must be one of the most dilapidated villages in Ireland occupies what must be, one of the most picturesque situations in the county. The views are simply grand and entirely beyond description. To the east, south & west it is ringed by lovely hills & mountains newly planted & presenting a series of delightful pictures. A short distance west is the quaint little village of Glencolman, picturesquely situated at foot of Seefin Mountain. To the south is the Gap of Red Blair where Clahon met his death in 1776. To the north is the lovely

GEOLOGY

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

estate of Clonodfoy famous for its plantations & charming walks. It is now very much broken up - being recently divided by I.L.C. The colourings of the surrounding mountains are very beautiful & the entire district compares most favourably with any of the more celebrated beauty spots.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

CLONODFOY. Situated in the heart of Glencolman amidst the most delightful surroundings in the county. Approached by two long avenues, the gate lodges of which are charming specimens of architecture. Externally, Clonodfoy must be one of the most beautiful houses in Ireland. Begun in 1845 its building continued right through the famine & gave much needed employment in the district. Red sandstone was used throughout & the complete cost was in the region of £75,000. It is of most unusual design embodying towers, battlements & spires (see picture, which is of western part). It was built by Miss Oliver-Descaignes & is an exact replica of the famous

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.

ABBETTS. On the lands of the Wallis, in an old burial ground, known as Abbey are the ruins of an early foundation. The church was founded in 547 by St Dimian but was rebuilt about 1296 by the Fitzgeralds for the Grey Friars. It measured about 75 x 25 feet & had walls over 3 feet thick. In the east was a ~~round~~ ^{pointed} window widely arched but now completely gone & in north wall was a handsome round headed window, the inner moulding of which is still intact. There was a square headed door in south wall, with inclined jambs. There was a pointed door in western gable. In S.W. angle is a broken stairway which was approached through an arched passage. The entire N. wall remains to a height of about 15 feet. Major portion of S. wall remains. S.E. angle with portion of S. wall gone. Upper portion of W. gable gone. Most of E. gable intact. The foundations were weakened by treasure hunters digging for gold supposed to have been hidden there & the holes may still be seen. In bad repair generally & in receipt of no care. Approached by passage to burial ground & about 50 yards south of the Ballyorgan / Glenmalur road.

DARRAGH GLENROE. EARLY CHURCH. In the eastern tip of Glenmalur is the burial ground of Darragh which has the foundations of an early church. It had a chancel & nave, about 20 x 15 & 50 x 21 feet resp. Only portion of W. gable to a height of ^(Main sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information) a few feet of the walls of nave. Was dedicated to St Cloctna whose feast occurs on 31st Aug. Nearby on Doon's land is the saint's well where pilgrimages take place. No care.

Gascoigne ancestral mansion in Yorkshire, where this latter family owned immense coal mines. This Miss Oliver-Gascoigne later became Lady Ashtown & the present owner, the Honble Wm C. Drenel ^(TRENCH) is her grandson. The reception rooms, of which there are seven are of very fine proportions & most exquisite workmanship. The ceilings are especially lovely & were put up in sections. There are some beautiful stained glass windows in the outer & inner halls on one of which is given a summary of the life of St Patrick, in Irish, & on the other the history of the Oliver family, also in Irish. The bulk of the furnishings was sold many years ago as also the pictures but there still remains many fine pieces & some beautiful family portraits. There are over 50 first class rooms & many more small ones & closets.

The surrounding grounds are very beautiful & laid out in terraces, facing west & south. There are also sunken & water gardens with playing fountains. As Mr Drenel has been an invalid for more than 20 years the gardens are not as well kept as they used be. The grounds immediately about the house are banded by a most elaborate balustrade of cast iron & cut stone, surmounted by massive urns & figures. From these, broad flights of steps lead down to the terraces. No library, it too was sold. The grounds are much frequented by visitors in peacetime but the house is not open. The surrounding plantations are beautiful.

EARLY CHURCHES. KILFLYNN. Beside Ballyorgan on the site now occupied by blunck of Ireland was the early church of Kilflynn which served an ancient parish. It is believed to have dated from early 13th century, but very little is known of it as it was wiped out when present church was being built.

Glemoe area must have been a centre of importance in the very distant past as I am informed many pre-historic weapons & implements were discovered from time to time in the beds of the numerous little streams about. Here it was that a former Parish Priest Very Rev. Father Lee made his first finds & formed the nucleus of his fine collection which was finally sold to late Earl of Downmore & eventually presented to the museum in ^{with some others from this latter gentleman's collection} Limerick & labelled as Downmore collection. The district in ancient times was a vast forest of oaks as the name "Danaagh Glemoe" implies.

On the hillsides at Ballintubber are a number of small caves which came in useful during much of Ireland's troubled history.

Round about here is a little "Gaeltacht" a good number of the older people being fluent Irish speakers - one being an old man by the strange name of CRANWITCH.

Near Glenroe R. C. Church is a district known as
SPITTLE and it is generally believed it was the
site of a foundation of the Knights Hospitaller
in early times. Absolutely nothing is known of
it now.

R.

Palatine Settlement, Ballyogan.

About 1775 Mr Silver Oliver planted about 15 families in & around Ballyogan. These he brought from the original settlement at Rathkeale, on estate of Sir Thomas Southwell.

at Ballyogan, they were not very favourably treated, receiving only small parcels of land on which they were unable to live. In time many of them departed for other lands & at the present time it is represented by only about three families of the names SHIER, BARRER and MEES. All the original houses built for them have disappeared & there are no relics to be seen.

A few families were also settled on unclaimed land at Glense, but owing to the hard struggle for existence did not long remain.

It would appear some Palatines also settled at Bruff as the approach from Limerick is known as Palatine Road. There are no members of the colony there now & no information can be had concerning it.

The Rev Mr Manning, Rector, Ballyogan has collected a good deal of information from the old registers, concerning the original colony there & intends publishing it, in the not too distant future.

The settlements at Rathkeale, Adare & Ballygran, are flourishing in a very prosperous condition. It would appear those settled at Kilfinane & Ballyogan were of a lower class & less industrious.

Cont'd on back →

P. 9. 2.

See over.

The colony around Ballyorgan had the following names:

BARKMAN, BARRER, BOVANIZER, FIZELLE, SHUMACHER, LEGEAR,

NEAZOR, STEEPE, COLE, STRANGH, SHIER & MEES.

Many of them attended Service in the little church at
Glenasheen already described under Ardpatrick Parish,
which please see.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Coshlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballyogan PARISH Ballyogan/Glenol COUNTY Limerick

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 KEALE R. Nearest point to town (distance) Adjoining.

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Small trout.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout About 4 oz.

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout During flood periods.

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon /
Sea trout /
Brown trout All kinds of trout used.

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

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors :

There are a number of little streams within the parish, fished during flood periods by locals, the fish caught are very small. Rivers are not frequented by anglers from any outside area.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

/

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Kilfinane.

Local Angling Club / Membership Fee /

Secretary (and Address) /

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

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Kinds of fish to be caught :

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

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

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

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GOLFING

Name of Club..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

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.....

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.....

Under which rules?.....

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *Scatter Black & Tan*.....

Harriers.....

Beagles.....

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 :

The shooting areas within the parish are all preserved. Grouse, woodcock & partridge are plentiful. Pheasant also to be found in fair number. Rabbits are very numerous.

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

of Lemroe Gun Club.

Shooting Club *of Lemroe Gun Club* Secy. *eth. etc. etc. Name N. T., of Lemroe.*

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

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

ROWING AND SAILING

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

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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.....
Handball..... Handball alley?.....
Soccer.....
Rugby.....
Cricket.....
Hockey.....
Bowls.....
Bowling (on public roads).....
Lawn Tennis..... Kinds of courts.....
Croquet.....
Billiards.....
Badminton.....
Table Tennis.....
Bridge Club.....
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing).....
.....
.....

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club..... 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.

Pattern at Well of St "Mochta" at Danagh. In lands of Mr J. O. on 31st August in each year.
Promoters.....

DATE 1/9/43

(Signed) P. J. Lynch
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Co. Shlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballyorgan PARISH Ballyorgan COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 90 approx.

Situated in one of the most picturesque districts in Ireland is the dilapidated village of Ballyorgan. It lies at foot of Coolfree Mountain & at eastern end of Glenasteen. The surrounding country is most delightfully wooded due to the planting schemes of the Sept of Lands etc. Roads lead up the mountain sides, giving charming vistas.

Is there a Town Hall? Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

[Crossed out section]

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

[Crossed out section]

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Kilmallock Distance 6 miles Bus? Kilfinane 4 miles

Public lighting by—Electricity? Gas?

DANCING

Dance hall "The Hall" Proprietor Mrs. Moyrihan,
Ballyorgan, Kilfinane.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *[Crossed out]* Pictures shown (nights) *[Crossed out]*

Theatre Both parish halls at Kind of shows Concerts, etc.
Ballyorgan & Glenroe are used, (Drama, Comedy &c.)
from time to time.

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Branches of County Library in National Schools at Ballyorgan & Glenrol*

Private Lending Libraries

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R.6. { Church *Ballyorgan* Services (Sundays) *10 A.M.*
Glenrol *8.30 & 11 A.M.*
old time all year round.
Church of Ireland.
Ballyorgan. *12.30 official time.*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Ballyorgan.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *Stamps, P.O. & O.A.P. only.*

Beside Glenrol Church is a sub P. Office for stamps & P.O.
BANKING *NO telephones at either.*

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 *Dairy is the only industry. There are up to date creameries at Ballyorgan and Danganagh near Glencol.*

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)

R.C. Church at Glencol is a handsome edifice of well kept & surrounded with tastefully planted grounds. There are excellent new schools at both Ballyorgan & Glencol. Very well fitted & admitting maximum light & air. Church of Ireland at Ballyorgan is a very pretty late 18th century building with square belfry & built of dressed limestone.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*National S. at Ballyorgan
" " " " Glencol
" " " " Ballintubber.*

HOSPITALS

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

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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 1/9/43.

(Signed) P. J. Lynch
Surveyor.

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SPORTS AND GAMES

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AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon ~~_____~~ Sea trout ~~_____~~ Brown trout About 4 oz.

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon ~~_____~~ Sea trout ~~_____~~ Brown trout During flood periods.

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon ~~_____~~

Sea trout ~~_____~~

Brown trout All kinds of trout used.

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

Entirely free.

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Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

~~_____~~

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Kilfinane.

Local Angling Club ~~_____~~ Membership Fee ~~_____~~

Secretary (and Address) ~~_____~~

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

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Kinds of fish to be caught :

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

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

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GOLFING

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Situation and brief description of course :

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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.....
Under which rules?.....
Situation of course.....

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Harriers.....
Beagles.....

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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 :

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

Glencoe Gun Club.

Shooting Club *Glencoe Gun Club* Secy. *eth. etc. etc. Name N. T., Glencoe.*

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

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

ROWING AND SAILING

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

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Rugby.....

Cricket.....

Hockey.....

Bowls.....

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Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing).....

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in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

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St "Mochta" at

Danagh. In lands of

Mr J. O. In 31st August in each year.

.....

.....

DATE *1/9/43*

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch
Surveyor.

ACCOMMODATION

BARONY Coshlea

COUNTY Limerick

PARISH Ballyorgan/Glenrose

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballyorgan

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
/					/		
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
/							

DATE 1/9/43

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed) P. J. Quinn
Surgeon.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes

at Castle Oliver a massacre of the Irish took place in 1649 during a penetration by Cromwell's forces. While the date given locally for the massacre is 11th Feb 1649, I am of the opinion Cromwell was not in Ireland at that time. History gives the time of his arrival as September of that year. The site of Castle Oliver is near farm yard on Clonodfoy estate.

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.

At Castle Oliver lived the famous Sir Oliver Oliver, who figured so prominently with John Fitzgibbon, Earl of Clare, in the Act of Union campaign. Oliver was one of the two members for Borough of Kilmallock & got £15,000 for his efforts & vote. He was also responsible for many hangings during his time as he was captain of the Yeomanry for County Limerick. One of his victims was William "Staker" Wallace, who was hanged, drawn & quartered at Kilfinane in '98. He owned a vast territory, stretching to Knocklong in the east and to Kilmallock in the north. There is no trace of Castle Oliver now. He was a man of handsome & striking appearance & had the best looking company of soldiers in the county as he recruited by force all the well built, handsome sons of his country.

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.

On the lands of Mr. O'Leary at G. Lemoor is a well site known as "the spa". While it is now closed, local people remember it in a good state & partook of its waters which had a strong iron content. There is no right of way.

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.

THE FOLLY. ^{Any story or legend to be related.} On a hill within the Clonoff Estate, is a building known as the Folly. It is composed of two circular towers, one about 25 & the other 20 feet high, connected by a gallery having two pointed windows and in centre a pointed door. Built entirely of red sandstone. It was put up during famine time to give employment & the stones were collected, one by one, & taken by hand to summit of hill. It is a most conspicuous landmark & is visible for many miles around. From the north it can be seen for over 20 miles - from the village of Dedmore near Limerick. (See picture) Built by the Abbess Oliver-Gascogne. From it there is a splendid view of the surrounding valley & particularly lovely of Limerick. Hill is 800 feet high.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

CASTLE GALE OR GALE'S FOLLY. In Camrigheny, nearly 1050 ft high, near Davagh, is a collapsed tower known as Castle Gale or Gale's Folly. During the famine times it was erected by Hamilton Gale, the local landlord, to act as a landmark & to give employment. Now it looks like a cairn on the summit of the hill.

Patterns, etc.

On 31st Aug. in each year a pattern or pilgrimage takes place at Well of St MOCHTÚ on lands of Mr Fox at DARRABH, a short distance east of Glenroe. It is claimed that many cures for eye ailments have been known as a result of rounds at the well on the saint's day. Now-a-days it is not much frequented except by the older people.

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch

Surveyor.

DATE 16. 9. 43.