

## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF Small CountyTOWN OR VILLAGE Bruff PARISH Bruff COUNTY Limerick

## TOPOGRAPHY

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

In parish of Bruff & one mile to East of village of same name is the very lovely lake "Lough Gur" Longest point 3 miles & greatest width 1 1/2 miles. Lake covers about 230 acres & is 250 feet above sea level. It nestles amidst four strangely formed hills, Paddock Hill to west, Knockfennell at north, Knockaroo to east & Knockadon to south. Under Knockadon is a prettily wooded island called "Garrett" or "Garod", after Garrett, Earl of Desmond.

## GEOLOGY

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

Geological features quite unlike anything else in the district. Unusual rock formations of limestone, conglomerate & red igneous rock. Igneous rock used mostly for standing & pillar stones about Lough Gur. On side of Knockfennell is an interesting opening known as Red Cellar cave. There are four islets with crannogs. Also on Knockfennell is a hollow, believed to be an extinct crater.

## MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

## OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?

Lough Gur House, beautifully situated near foot of Knockfennell, overlooking the lake. Beautiful gardens but not open to public. Formerly the residence of the Count de Salis, now the home of Colonel & Mrs Galloway.

The Grange. Three miles from Bruff on road to Limerick. Built in latter half of 18th century. A most imposing house amidst lovely surroundings, on the Camogue river, famous for Brown Trout. Formerly seat of one of the "broken" families, a daughter of whom married the richest commoner in England, (about 1880) Sir Thomas DYER. About 17 years ago on the death of the only surviving member of broken family, house & estate passed to a son of the above mentioned marriage. He sold place to Mr Flavin in whose possession it has since remained, but has never been lived in since purchase. House, however is in very good repair & in drawing room is a wonderful ceiling (Adams) of most excellent workmanship. The Grange is situated in heart of hunting country about 8 miles from Limerick & would make an ideal hotel. There are

## ANTIQUITIES

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

GLENOGRA ABBEY. The present structure dates from approximately 1239. Dedicated to St Nicholas early in the 15th century. It replaced a much earlier foundation. (Gleann Logra - Logra, a man's name) It is 69 feet by 21 feet. There are three eastern pointed windows of varying heights but all of about one foot wide. The smallest window is blocked up. West end has narrow slit, 12 feet from ground and over that was a further narrow slit, which is now blocked up. There are doors in either side, about 20 feet from west end & near each door is a window. A side building 29 x 18 feet projects to south; its sides are down but gable is intact. Had a fine gothic door or large window what likely a door as there is a very fine old water font right inside, set into wall & fashioned out of thick slab of stone, in the club shape. Over this is a little gothic arch about 15 ins high & 12 ins wide & 12 ins deep. At the eastern end of main building is a somewhat similar font. About abbey is a burial ground where members of the de Laey, Roches (Lords Tenney) Bourkes, Fitzgeralds (Desmonds) and O'Grady (Viscounts of Killanoe) families were buried. situated at G. Logra, one mile to south of Redmond's village, on the lands of Mr. Hayes. Not in receipt of any care. Condition good.

BRUFF. On the site of the present Protestant Church at Bruff was a very early foundation, dedicated to St Peter of Alexandria. About 1776 the structure was pulled down & on its site, erected, a new church, by Lady Lucy Harstonge, which still stands and serves the Protestant community.

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

Buniff. Castle is said to have been built in 1220 by de Lacy. It was an appanage of Hospital of Knockaney. Piers de Lacy was in Desmond's rebellion. In 1600 he held the castle, was defeated by Capt Slingsby & Buniff castle garrisoned. Lacy was executed in 1617 & his lands given to Sir Tho Standish. In 1641 Piers de Lacy's son took castle from Standish & from it harassed the English at Lough fur. From him it again passed to the Standish family, a daughter of whom married a member of the Harstonage family, Barons in later years. Castle was built on elbowing Star River to west of Bridge. Only site now remains, adjoining village

TULLYBRACKY. On the lands (farm & ar) of Mr Mortell at Tullybracky is the site of an ancient castle erected in early 12th century. Portions form the stable walls of present farm house.

CAMAS. There was also a castle at Camas from same date as Tullybracky. It belonged to monks of Manister Abbay, being a grange of same. When religious houses were dissolved castle, lands & Abbay were given to Sir J. Jephson about 1613. Property was later, up to end of last century, held by the Bevan family of Glenbevan, Croom. No trace now remains.

CAHER GUILLAMORE. Earl of Desmond had a castle here, later called ROCK BARTON. When Desmond was dispossessed castle & lands were granted to Fitzmaurice and from him to a Capt Morgan, who sold later to man named Reymon. A rectangular foundation about 50 yards to East of stone circle on lands of Mr Sinner, of Caherguillamore.

IV Antiquities. Abbeys, churches, etc.

CAMAS. Here was also situated a very early church but nothing now remains ~~but~~ <sup>except</sup> the foundation about which is a burial ground.

TULLYBRACKY. This church & parish was dedicated to St MOLON & dates from about 1185. Was 43 x 21 feet. Portions of west end & sides still intact, surrounded by burial ground. Tobar eMullana or "Blunmy's Well" lies near it. Lies one mile to north of Bruff.

CREAN. an ancient church also stood here. Nothing now remains but foundation in burial ground which surrounds site.

DUNKIP. This church was dedicated to St Bromyth. Its exact location is not now known.

LOUGH GUR (or NEW CHURCH) A very early foundation. The present structure on the southern shore of Lough Gur dates from 10th century but was completely renovated in ~~early~~ late 15th century by Rachel, widow of Henry, Earl of Bath. Structure is in most excellent repair & is the property of the Count de Salis, by whose late father it was well repaired & protected. It is 56 x 21 feet. Walls 12 x 4 ft. East window has a round headed splay & double light. In south is a window with oblong splay & round headed light. The west end has a window slit & bell chamber. About it is a very ancient burial ground. Just across the road from church is a small caomlech known as "Seaba na eMhicha" or pigs bed. On the lands of eMho Banoll. Near to that is a rock known as "Carnig an Affin" where, it is believed, Mass was celebrated during the penal times.

On the southern extremity of Lough Gur is a very pretty cottage owned by Mr John Hunt. Here is housed, one of the most complete collections of pre-historic weapons & implements, some utensils & an amount of ornaments. There are also some splendid specimens of mediæval wood carvings - one is the earliest known wooden carving of the Virgin Mary, with the original Renaissance colouring. Mr Hunt also has some splendid old Spanish & other tapestries. Some early Roman period utensils are also there & some glass beads of the early (Irish) Christian era. There is also some very old pottery & a few paintings of value. While Mr Hunt would gladly show his collections to interested parties, he has most emphatically emphasised to me that he wants no mention of them in any papers or brochures & does not want any tourists knocking at his door.

On the eastern shore of the Lake is Desmond Castle, which was modernised some years ago by the late Count de Lalis & where he lived during his visits to this country, from Switzerland, where for health reasons he was obliged to live. The present Count also came there frequently but is presently a prisoner of war in Germany (so I am told). He also owns a cottage nearby. I was unable to gain admission.

Slightly to east of Desmond Castle is the house which figured in that well known book "The Farm by Lough Gur" <sup>(CARBERT)</sup> <sup>(NEE)</sup> (O'Brien) presently owned by Mr Connolly. Most prettily situated & very well kept. Not by any means a mansion. It is a long single storey house, built on raised ground and having a full view of the Lake.

GRANGE. This was also a Desmond Stronghold, dating from about 1186. Maurice, Earl of Desmond was dispossessed & lands passed through King's hands to the Earl of Bath. Foundations 40 x 30 feet, walls 6 feet thick, on Carrig anilla Rock, two miles from Bruff on road to Limeick. Foundations only, remain.

Ganod's Island. In the lake, traces of a castle said to have been stronghold of Ganod, Earl of Desmond, whose ghost is doomed to ride round lake once every seven years till the silver shoes of his white horse are worn away. A causeway led to island, about 50 yards from foot of Knockadon hill. It is now covered over with water. (causeway)

Ballygrenane. One mile south of Bruff on lands of the Purcell; in a very good state of preservation, while in receipt of no attention. Built by father of Gerald, Earl of Kildare. From the Kildares it passed through Metcalf & Jones to James Fitzosc who sold place about beginning of 17th century to George Evans, whose grandson, another George Evans was created 1st Baron Berkeley. Present structure is a late 16th century castle. The main wing is 16 feet by 25 feet inside, with circular stairs; turret to the south west & small apartments to the north. Second floor is broken, third vaulted, top floor again broken. Windows are rectangular & mullioned; walls 3 feet thick, 50 feet high and battlemented; tall chimneys. There are very extensive out-buildings and a court with outer gate still remain. Chain wing has bartizans at opposite angles & like the other buildings, has tall chimneys.

GLENORA. One mile south of Fedamore on lands of Mr Bennett. Much of building has collapsed. Remainder in fairly good preservation. Dating from about 1239, and was a further Desmond castle, being the most strongly fortified of all the castles. The present structure was built by the unlucky Thomas, Earl of Desmond between 1400-20, replacing an earlier building. The Desmonds held it until 1583 approx. when it was attacked & very much ruined. Immediately after that it was repaired & held by Edmund Fitton, Sheriff of Limerick, on behalf of Sir G. Bouchier. (Earl of Bath's family), in whose possession it remained. There is a court 150 feet to ~~south~~<sup>east</sup> & 180 feet to ~~south~~<sup>south</sup>, walls of squared stones, about 25 feet high & 5 feet thick. At north side of castle is an octagonal keep 19 feet across inside, 4 stories high, 2nd vaulted. There is a turret on S.W. face. The circular stairs is left to right which is most unusual. On third storey there is a narrow landing & here the stairs turns & goes from right to left to top storey & roof. In same level as landing a narrow passage way leads to a strange five sided apartment, about 8 feet across & 12 feet high at centre point. Ceiling is also <sup>in</sup> five parts & meets at point in centre. There are two windows, one large, other small. Flat rounded doors lead to castle from ramparts. Bases of vaulted turrets remain along north wall. Chain gateway is a pointed arch in south wall, 8 feet high. In court is a ruined house & water mill (within fortifications) Underneath main portion of castle (under ground level) is a circular dungeon about 30 feet in diameter, bee-hive shape (∩) & 9 feet high at centre.

(GLENOGRA-contd) Access to this could be had only through narrow stairs in crevice of wall & from main apartment on ground floor. It had no window or door to outside. Through court yard are remains of several underground apartments, from which passages radiated to other parts. The whole building was on a series of rock formations. There were fire places in upper stories.

BLACK CASTLE. (Lough Gur), ~~situated~~ on Southern extremity of Knockadoon Hill, which was formerly an island. Internally it measures 24' x 13' feet. Walls between 7' & 8' feet thick. The arched roof of lower storey still remains <sup>also</sup> part of <sup>S.</sup> ~~southern~~ wall to the height of 35' feet. Adjacent to castle & gateway which led to it; may be traced foundations of extensive outbuildings. In the middle of 16th century on the occasion of a disputed succession to the Earldom of Desmond, this castle was occupied by Lord Grey. This was considered one of the ~~feudal~~ most formidable military works <sup>of the Geraldines</sup>. A causeway was built connecting the ~~southern~~ <sup>STET</sup> extremity of Knockadoon (which as I have already mentioned was then an island) with the mainland, <sup>and</sup> a strong gatehouse defended the <sup>landward end.</sup> ~~land side~~. At the island <sup>end</sup> side the approach was interseded by a moat, crossed by a drawbridge, & inside that was a further strongly fortified gateway. A wall connected <sup>the inner</sup> gateway (inner) with Black castle. <sup>the</sup> Causeway <sup>nearly 150 yds long,</sup> is still to be seen. & is nearly 150 yards long. Constructed between two walls of stone, higher on western than on eastern side. Black castle was considered no less important than the Geraldine stronghold at Maynooth.



LOUGH BUR (or BOUCHIERS) At the <sup>NE</sup> north eastern end  
 of Knockadoon hill stands Lough fur castle, which like its  
 neighbour, Black castle, was approached by a causeway. The  
 castle is 75' <sup>high</sup> in height & is in ~~most~~ excellent preservation,  
 thousands of pounds having been spent on its restoration  
 some years ago by the late Count de Salis. It was erected  
 during time of Elizabeth by Sir George Bouchier (later Earl of Bath),  
 to whom Lough fur was granted on the forfeiture of the  
 Desmond possessions. It replaced the preceding castle  
 which in its turn replaced one of Brian Boroi's forts.  
 When Carew undertook the conquest of Munster about <sup>1600</sup>, the  
 castle was held by the Sinean Earl. It commanded the road  
 from Kilmallock to Limerick, so that for years previous the  
 road was impassable for any body in the English interest.  
 About same year (1600) the castle was besieged by  
 Carew to whom it was betrayed by <sup>one</sup> ~~a certain~~ Owen  
 Egoone, a member of the garrison, in return for his  
 liberty. Towards middle of 17th century, <sup>the</sup> castle was <sup>the</sup> property  
 of <sup>the</sup> Countess of Bath & from her through its female line  
 is descended <sup>to</sup> ~~the present~~ de Salis family. <sup>The structure</sup> ~~Castle~~ is five  
 stories high, <sup>the</sup> 1st & 2nd <sup>being</sup> vaulted, 3rd & 4th have  
 rectangular shafted windows. The causeway was about  
 140 yards in length. In 1643 the castle <sup>defended by the earl of Bath,</sup> was again  
 besieged by <sup>Irish forces under</sup> Lord Castleconnell (Bourke). — ~~the Irish interest, the~~  
~~defenders then being the Earl of Bath. Finally the castle was~~  
~~It was~~ <sup>surrendered</sup> after one of the defenders, Sir Robert Dymell, had gone  
 over to Irish side. Two of the garrison, Gregory Moran and  
 Giolla Patrick were hanged on the green at Bruff. They  
 were captured at Grange when they went to buy "brogues" for Moran's wife.

VIII Antiquities. Stone circles, pillar stones etc.  
(Aug. 1942)

The shores of Lough fur abound in Pagan antiquities, particularly stone circles, pillar stones and ~~concrete~~ <sup>megalithic tombs.</sup> The largest & most perfect circle, lies to west of lake <sup>and</sup> about 30 yards from main road; ~~it has~~ been excavated & <sup>is</sup> surrounded <sup>by</sup> with an iron railing. ~~It is~~ <sup>The circle</sup> 130' feet in diameter, ~~it~~ <sup>the circle</sup> consists of 43 stones of varying height, the largest of ~~them~~ <sup>being</sup> is 9' feet high by 6' feet wide (concrete). A short distance to <sup>N</sup> north, across <sup>the</sup> road, is a smaller circle. <sup>To N.E.</sup> North-east is a ~~most~~ massive pillar

stone on lands of Col. Galloway, 11' feet high x 6' feet wide x ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> feet thick. <sup>Between large circle & this pillar stone lie two further circles, one of perfect formation.</sup> A fine ~~concrete~~ <sup>dolmen</sup> lies on southern S. shore, <sup>on the</sup> land of Mr Hunt, <sup>is a fine dolmen,</sup> while a short distance to <sup>W</sup> west

is a smaller one on land of Mr. Banell, known as "Leaba na Mince" <sup>The</sup> "Piep bed". There are numerous circles on <sup>the</sup> adjacent hills, viz. <sup>3</sup> three circles on Knockroo Hill (Mrs Gore's land), <sup>3</sup> three on Knockadon (Mr Ryan's land) <sup>2</sup> two on Paddock Hill & <sup>2</sup> two on Knockfennell. One of the Knockfennell circles would appear to have been converted into a fortification. There

was a stone fort built of large blocks, with small ones inserted. <sup>The</sup> Wall was 10' feet high & <sup>x 10ft thick</sup> thick & <sup>120 feet across</sup> 120 feet across <sup>long</sup> long. <sup>and had</sup> with long walls 60 yards apart down <sup>the</sup> slope to north. At <sup>the</sup> ~~East~~ <sup>E</sup> side was a smaller fort, similarly constructed. The circles on

Knockroo had double rows of stones about 8' feet apart, <sup>the centre being</sup> partly filled in, over which rough steps led. There

are two further standing stones on Killalough Hill near Black Castle. <sup>On the</sup> lands of <sup>At</sup> Cahingillamore there are over 50 acres of ruins, consisting of stone circles, forts and single & double earthworks. Nearby is a pillar stone on land of Mr. Dinneen. NO excavations have been carried out here & <sup>it is known to have set.</sup>

IX Antiquities. Stone circles, pillar stones, forts etc.

Numerous important forts surrounded Lough Gur. The Knockadoon was Brian Boru's strongly fortified fort.

Brian <sup>Boru</sup> ~~Boru~~ fortified the island of Lough Gur, which can be nothing other than Knockadoon. There is doubt whether this fortification was one of the forts on the summit of <sup>the hill,</sup> ~~the hill,~~ or else some means of protecting island by ~~some~~ <sup>an</sup> artificial approach, as was later made by the

Peraldines when building Black Castle. In early part of 12th century Donogh, son of Kennedy O'Brien, was imprisoned at Lough Gur for some years. Towards end of <sup>same</sup> ~~12th~~ century the island was plundered by Gollins of Blangair.

There are sites of numerous forts on surrounding hills, but the most important are two, <sup>stone forts</sup> on <sup>the</sup> hill of Canigalla to North West, which were excavated by Prof. O'Riordan some years ago, ~~where he made~~ <sup>were made.</sup> Some very interesting finds of gold ornaments etc. ~~these were stone wall~~

forts. There are many forts among the ruins at Cahingillamoe, & a very fine earth work in <sup>the</sup> public park at Burreff, which is considered to have been one of Brian Boru's residences. <sup>Throughout the district</sup> There are sites of countless lesser

forts ~~throughout the district~~ but not worthy of mention. In Knockadoon is <sup>the</sup> site of a 17th century D.C. dwelling, which was

<sup>at present in the</sup> ~~being excavated by Prof. O'Riordan during his survey. See picture.~~ <sup>course of excavation by</sup> ~~Nothing of importance other than bones was found. Report has not yet been published. There were fragments of pottery with bones.~~ <sup>(Aug. '42)</sup> ~~Nothing of importance other than bones was found. Report has not yet been published. There were fragments of pottery with bones.~~

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Small County

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bouff PARISH Bouff COUNTY Lincoln

### 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 Morning Star Nearest point to town (distance) None through village

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Brown Trout

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon ..... Sea trout ..... Brown trout Up to 3 lbs.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon ..... Sea trout ..... Brown trout April / May

#### SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon .....

Sea trout .....

Brown trout Orange Grouse, Greenwells Grouse & Quills

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

Entirely free.

#### Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

no boats.

None preserved within the parish of Bouff.

#### Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

no boats

#### Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Bouff Village

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee None

Secretary (and Address) .....

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

[Crossed out section]

Kinds of fish to be caught :

[Crossed out section]

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

[Crossed out section]

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

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

GOLFING

Name of Club *Limerick Golf Club* ..... No. of holes *18* .....

Situation and brief description of course :

*Nearest club is at Limerick, 11 miles to North of Bruff. Limerick Golf Club is situated at Ballyclough, 3 miles to south of Limerick, on the ROSBRIEN ROAD.*

Name of Professional *W. Daly* .....

Is there a clubhouse on course? *yes* ..... Licensed? *yes* .....

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day *2/6* ..... Per week *10/-* .....  
Per month *25/-*

## SHOOTING.

While Long Gun abounds in  
geese & duck, shooting on the lake  
itself is strictly forbidden, by the  
Count de Salis who owns Lake.

The approaches to Lake,  
however, are much frequented  
by fowlers & a heavy toll is  
taken of birds arriving at &  
leaving the lake and its shores.  
Boating on lake is forbidden also  
and a watch man is employed  
to see that rule is observed.

Count de Salis wants Long  
Gun to be a bird sanctuary.

## RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year one P. to P. meeting held each year in month of March.  
 Under which rules? Irish National Hunt Society Rules.  
 Situation of course Bruff Hill.

## HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds Scarteen Black & Tans. (Master - Mr. Ryan)  
 Harriers Limerick Harriers (Joint Masters M. D. Shaw Esq. & A. de Boid Esq.)  
 Beagles — Hunting every Thursday.

## COURSING

Name of Club Bruff Coursing Club. Meeting held annually? yes - usually in January.

## GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company Nearest track at Markets Field, Limerick  
 Races on (nights) Fridays & Saturdays at 8.15 P.M.

## SHOOTING

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

Shooting available throughout country, side free.  
Crean & Carigreen Bogs to west of village for  
Snipe, Geese & Scurf, Both free. Kilbally Owen &  
Ballyvohane to East of village abound in pheasants.  
Both preserved but permission for a days shooting is generally  
granted by both owners, on application.

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

Kilbally Owen - The Madame O'Leary, Kilbally Owen.  
Ballyvohane - John D. Barty, N.C.C., Ballyvohane.  
Both districts under the postal district of Bruff.

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.

.....  
 .....  
 .....

## 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 *Minor Team. Pitch at Ballycannon.*

Hurling *do. do.*

Handball *Alley in village.* Handball alley? *Yes.*

Soccer *NO*

Rugby *NO*

Cricket *NO*

Hockey *Private pitch at F.C.J. Convent.*

Bowls *NO*

Bowling (on public roads) *NO*

Lawn Tennis *Private Courts at Convent* Kinds of courts *Green.*

Croquet *do.*

Billiards *Yes - 2 in Convent Hall.*

Badminton *NO*

Table Tennis *NO Club, but privately owned tables as at Leeds & Bangor.*

Bridge Club *NO.*

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) *None*

## ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club *Meamons A.C.* Events held under rules of *N.A.C.A.*

*A sports meeting was held in Aug this year for the first time & it is intended to make it an annual event.*

### ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.) in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

(March) *Bruff Point to Point Races* Promoters *County Hunt.*

(January) *Bruff Coursing Meeting* *Bruff Coursing Club.*

*Bruff P. to P. Race Dance* *Local Committee*  
*(takes place same date as Races)*

DATE *24th Aug '42*

(Signed) *A.J. Lynch.*  
Surveyor.





## I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.  
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF Small CountyTOWN OR VILLAGE Bruff PARISH Bruff COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description.

Population 450 approx.

Bruff, a very ancient village, 14 miles south of Limerick city, on the road to Kilmallock, in the heart of the "Golden Vale" as its name would indicate, it was the site of a residence of some of the early Kings of Thomond. A well kept progressive centre, with up to date & well stocked shops.

Is there a Town Hall? NO Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

20 to the west of village is a nice park known as the "grove" it covers the site of a very ancient earth work, which is believed to have been used by Brian Boru, in conjunction with his stronghold at Drough Gur.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Good water supply from reservoir nearby. (Water tower)  
Good sewerage system - managed by the Board of Health. Discharges into river.

## PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest <sup>ply</sup> station Kilmallock Distance 6 miles Bus? G.S.R. Services daily.Public lighting by—Electricity? Electricity Gas? None

## DANCING

Dance hall "O'Donovan's" Proprietor Wm B. O'Donovan  
The Star Hall Miss Irene Lee.

## CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Travelling companies Pictures shown No set programme  
present pictures from (nights)  
time to time in both "O'Donovan's" & the  
Star Hall.Theatre None. Concerts occasionally held in both  
above Halls. Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

## LIBRARIES

Public Libraries A branch of the County Library is situated in the Court House.

Private Lending Libraries A branch of "Foyles" Lending Library is at Mrs Kielip's Newsagency in the Main Street.

## CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R.C. Church	Bruff	Services (Sundays)	9.30 & 12.30 during operation of summer time. 8.30 & 11.30 during operation of winter time. 10.30 during summer time 9.30 .. winter time 10.30 .. summer time 9.30 .. winter time 10.00 official time Presently unused.
	Holy Cross (Catholic)		
	Means		
	Bruff Protestant Church		
	Rockbarton		

## POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office at entrance to village (from Limerick)

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

## BANKING

Banks Munster & Limerick Bank, Ltd.

National Bank, Ltd.

Both are situated in Main Street.

## SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers None nearer than Kilmallock or Hospital, both about 6 miles distant from village of Bruff.

Photographic Stores Medical Hall, Main St., Bruff.  
Proprietor - Mr Jeremiah Murphy.

## SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? None Location —

Public Baths? None Location —

Lough Gur, one mile to east & Charming Star River which flows through village are used as bathing places.

## 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)

None

(There is, in the churchyard attached to Protestant church in Bruff, a monument to the memory of Sir Thomas <sup>STANDISH</sup> Harstonge, erected about the year 1776)

## IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

None, with exception of local churches. Catholic church built in 1879, of dressed limestone, with short bellry. Gothic design. Protestant church is on the site of a very early foundation. Present church built by Lady Lucy Harstonge in 1776. Dedicated to St Peter of Alexandria. Rockbarton church built by one of the Lords Fermoy about 1840. Very pretty building. Dressed limestone.

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Thomas Convent run by S. B. J. Nuns for Boarders & Day pupils.  
Boys' school run by de la Salle Brothers for day pupils.  
National Schools situated at Bruff, Grange & Meanus.

## HOSPITALS

None nearer than Kroom, which is eight miles distant. There is available a most modern institution, thoroughly equipped.

When on / day  
dates follow Saturday  
on Sunday, the fair is  
held following Monday

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *Fairs held on May 16; July 23;  
Aug. 22; October 18 and Nov 28.*  
Weekly market day *Tuesday* Half-holiday *Thursday.*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*Healy's, Main Street, Bruff.  
Hens, do.*

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *John Raleigh, Main St. Bruff.  
P. J. Hen, do.*  
*(In normal peacetime there are many more)*

Motors (Touring) *None*

Boats (State type) *None*

Bicycles *None for hire*

Caravans *None*

Horses *None*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location..... Landowner.....  
*There are no recognised camping sites. The  
country side at large is used without objection  
from land owners. Lough fur is much frequented  
by boaters. Land owned by Colonel Galloway; R. Ryan, T.D.;  
Mr. & Mrs. O'Connell & Mr. Connolly.*

Local Improvements Committee *None*

Secretary *None*

DATE *24th Aug. '42* (Signed) *A. J. Lynch.*  
Surveyor.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Small County

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bruff PARISH Bruff COUNTY Limerick

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Lough Gur Nearest point to town (distance) 1 mile to east

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Pike & Roach, & eels.

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon        Sea trout        Brown trout       

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon        Sea trout        Brown trout       

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon       

Sea trout       

Brown trout       

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

Free.

#### Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Since boating is not allowed on lake, very little fishing is done at Lough Gur. NO river flows into or out of Lake, but in winter time when water is high, it drains through a subterranean stream, which goes under one of the surrounding hills. Its course is unknown.

#### Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Boating on Lough Gur is strictly forbidden.

#### Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Bruff.

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee       

Secretary       

DATE 24th Aug '42.

(Signed) M. J. Lynch.  
Surveyor.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Small County

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bruff PARISH Bruff COUNTY Limerick

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Camogue Nearest point to town (distance) 3 miles to N.E.  
*(Camogue flows through district known as Grange)*

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Excellent Brown Trout.

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout up to 3 1/2 lbs.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout April/May

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon /

Sea trout /

Brown trout Large Grouse, Greenwells & Boy.

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

Free.

#### Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

No stretches preserved within the parish of Bruff.

#### Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

No boats necessary.

#### Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Bruff and Limerick City, which is about 10 miles distant.

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee /

Secretary /

DATE 24th Aug. 42.

(Signed) P. D. Jones.

Surveyor.

II Mansions, castles and Estates.

about 30 apartments of good size. Attached is a fine garden, of about 3 acres, walled in & having vineyard & peach house, amongst others. The present owner would readily sell. (About 100 acres)  
Cahir Guillamore. The former seat of the Viscount Guillamore, unused since 1922 when estate was divided by Land Commission. Was a grand Elizabethan type of house. Shell of house <sup>INTACT</sup> intact, but all fittings, doors, windows, etc. have been removed. Situated near Grange & two miles from Bruff.

ROCKBARTON. Former seat of Lord Fermoy. Land divided in 1922 when Rockbarton House was sold to the Baring in whose possession it remained till 1941 when house was demolished and fittings sold to a Limerick Builder. Had a grand staircase of marble. Was one of the showplaces of Ireland. House & grounds renovated about 1912 at a cost of £70,000 by the Hon. Nigel Baring, who married the Hon. Sybil Roche, daughter of Lord Fermoy. Baring was son of Lord Revelstoke & a member of the Banking family of that name. (BARING).  
Rockbarton adjoined Cahir Guillamore. <sup>died early 1946. Great convert & man of letters etc.</sup>

KILBALLYOWEN. One mile east of Bruff on road to Hospital. Seat of the O'Grady. Presently owned by the Madam O'Grady. Second largest estate in Limerick, containing 776 acres. (Several hundreds of acres have already been divided) House which is also one of the largest in Limerick is splendidly kept & contains priceless treasures, the collection of generations of O'Grady family who have resided there since early in 15 century. There is a splendid library; several famous paintings; numerous articles of furniture of original design & workmanship; tapestries; old Chinese ware; (Enamel on copper) pottery; 3rd piano ever made; very valuable Venetian mirrors; copy of the Koran; (Mohammedan Sacred Scriptures in Arabic captured by General the O'Grady during an Eastern campaign) Old Roman Bron Ware; Elephant's tusks, about 7 feet long; fine Adams fireplaces & four Adams sideboards, specially designed by Adams himself; and numerous other items. The house is not open to public but Madam O'Grady likes to show <sup>her</sup> place to appreciative people.  
At Killyowen also, are some fighting weapons of the R.C. period. In grounds is one of the finest specimens of tulip trees in Ireland.



## HISTORIC SITES

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

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

On hill of Knockaroo (also Greyland) is the site of a fort, which it is believed was owned & occupied by the King of Leinster during the early part of the 10th century.  
On hill of Knockadoon & in park at Bruff are sites of a fort & earth work respectively attributed to Brian Boru.  
At the approach to Lough Fu castle took place, a fierce battle between Owen & John Fitz Thomas at which was used a piece called a "demi cannon".  
It was at Lough Fu that the Druids of Ireland used to assemble for their great festival. During war of independence a battle took place at Ballywilliamore House between Black & Tan forces & Irish forces.

## HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities. Present owner or occupant.

Kilballyowen House is the seat of the O'Grady, head of family of that name. Presently owned & occupied by the Madam O'Grady, widow of Colonel the O'Grady. Colonel O'Grady's horse "Derk" was one of two which came safely through the entire South African campaign, & he is buried in the grounds of Kilballyowen. At Glanogue Abbey he buried the remains of members of O'Grady, Fitz Gerald, (Desmonds), Roches (Fernox), Bowker (Lord Castle Connell & Brittas) and de Lacy families.  
At New Church on southern shore of Lough Fu is buried a famous Bard named O'Connell who was the last of the Bards from the vicinity of Lough Fu. The Counts de Salis are also buried there.

## 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.

Some of the stones forming the most perfect stone circle at Lough Gur are of very strange formation. They occupy a position directly opposite entrance to circle. The only outlet from Lough Gur is by a small drain which flows into foot of Knockfemell at eastern extremity. Nobody knows where it comes out but during November people gather here to watch the eels go through the opening in hundreds. This would indicate that there must be an outlet at some other place. On land of Mr. R. Ryan T.D.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

None

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

DATE 2/9/42.