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22

(Limerick W)
FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Upper Connello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bruce PARISH Bruce COUNTY Limerick
Rockhill

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The ^{valley} Maigue is well worth visiting. ^{topographical features.} A short distance south of Bruce, the river flows past Bruce House, a beautiful brick mansion that lends a charm to the scene. Plantations of pine, beech and elm stretch away to the west and a gentle ridge leans in the east. The river goes under the very houses of Bruce and tumbles over small cascades; under the quaint, old, six-eyed bridge and reaches the "Leap" where it plunges over a pretty water fall into the still pool known as "Poulnassa" overhanging the leap is the old mill with its grey stone & red brick walls and giant water wheel which gives an old world grace to the scene. Beyond Bruce it flows through rich green fields, mirroring the strong de Saey castles at Lottersagh, past Lis Allium, where King Allium Ollum once held sway and reaches lovely Glenma. Here the peace & beauty is entrancing. The rich land, quiet woods and silvery ^{not} Maigue ^{is} a charming picture. This stretch of river is well known to anglers and the quality of the trout is second only to the beauty of the valley.

GEOLOGY

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

The land is mainly of limestone, rich and deep, famous for its fattening qualities more than for milk. Good bloodstock has also been raised in the eastern end of parish. In the west, beyond Rockhill and approaching Killakello sandstone occurs.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

BRALEE HOUSE. Just south of the village is Bruce House, a very fine mansion, of red and yellow bricks built in the 80's of last century. The grounds are well wooded and it is set amidst delightful gardens, water, bog, rock and rose. Presently owned by the Shalan but occupied by military. The builder of the house - John Gubbins - was the breeder and owner of Gallus Ollon and Ardpatrick with which he won the DERBY two years in succession. Gallus Ollon also won the St Leger & Two thousand Guineas. All these in 1897. Ardpatrick won the Eclipse stakes worth £10,000 in 1903. Both horses were sold to Russian & Persian Governments respectively for £21,000 each. Gubbins also owned Beaman which won the Grand National in 1882. Gubbins was responsible for many strange innovations. At one period his man caused a sensation by arriving at Railway stop with a yoke of oxen drawing a farm cart. He owned the first motor car in the county, with which he frightened both people and animals. During the land war he was boycotted by local Land League, under chairmanship of the famous Land League priest Fr Eugene Sheehy, who was the first priest to be jailed for Land League activities. Attached to house are wonderful stables and outoffices, centrally heated. Well worth a visit. The house of course is at the moment out of bounds for right also. The last owner was Mr D.R. Browne a nephew of John Gubbins.

J. Gubbins
1828 and 1906

ANTIQUITIES

FORTS

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.

KIOS OHLIUM. On the lands of Mr David Cahill, on left bank of Maigue and a short distance north of Bruree is this fine triple ringed fort of large proportions. It was the palace of Olliol Oluim, King of Munster. Centre section of fort would be about 12 feet high & ~~30~~⁴⁰ yds in diam. From outer edges of 3rd ring it would be about 80 yds in diam. Planted with mature oak trees it makes a very pleasing and prominent land mark. On lands of Mr David Cahill, Lotteragh.

KNOCK DUHA. Four hundred yards west of Bruree and a few yards south of road to Rock Hill is a strange mound up to 20 ft high & 20 yds in diam., known as KNOCK DUHA. Built on rising ground, from its summit, an amazing view may be had, of the Lintk plain from Galtee to the Shannon. Some maintain it was a watch tower, others that it marks the grave of a local chief named Daithi. On it stands a pillar stone, 5 ft high & 1 ft square. Whether this is an ancient pillar or later addition is not quite clear. In reasonably good condition.

BRUREE CASTLE. Beside the village in an old burial ground & a few yards from the pretty little church of Bruree is a well preserved castle of the peel tower type. Close on 70 feet high, it has walls 6 ft thick. In N/E corner inside door, which is pointed & in N. wall, is a perfect spiral stairs of 59 steps & leads to battlements. Four stones, ~~20~~²⁰ vaulted and turned over time. From battlements is a glorious view of the countryside to every point. Stairs lighted by numerous slits. A breach in N. wall is said to have been caused by cannon fire by Cromwellian soldiers. Regarded as a de laay stronghold. The ~~SE~~^{SE} corner for its full height has fallen. Entirely ivy covered but in good repair. No care. Makes an unusual picture in burial ground & beside church. Inside are several enboards.

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

LOTTERA CASTLES. A short distance north of Bruree

HIM ERICKS.

The Secretary.

25th 6-44

I. D. R. Subl.

Dear Sir,

Herewith Survey Report on
Bourse/Rockhill Parish of
which same is in order. When
there the light was not too good
& I was prevented taking some
pictures. Some day suitable I
shall return & take pictures of
Lios Allium; Fionn's Rock; Nauris
Chair, and consider them of much
interest.

Yrs J. J. Fells
A. D. Zeydel

BROOK LANE,

ROSEBURY.

The Secretary,
I.D. A., Dublin.

Dear Sir,

Re BRUREE/ROCKHILL PARISH.

With reference to Survey Report on above, submitted about middle of June last, I would wish to advise you that notices have recently appeared in local paper, stating that all the Rockhill area has been preserved & that each farmer and landowner will act as gamekeeper for his own territory. Adjust Form "B" accordingly.

Yours f. fully,
A. J. Deane

P.T.O.

2.10.44.

This would mean that roughly
all the land in this parish,
west of the main Limerick / Cork
road has been preserved.

D.L.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Upper Connello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bunce PARISH Bunce / Ruckhill COUNTY Link

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 Maigue Nearest point to town (distance) 7 hours through

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon; Brown Trout; Pike.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 7 lbs. Sea trout — Brown trout 8 oz.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Feb - May Sea trout — Brown trout Feb - June

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon Thunder & lightning; Jack Scott; Orange Grouse; Silver Doctor;
Sea trout Various sizes according to depth & cleaners. Collier & Golden Devon.
Brown trout Good dry fly river Coachman; Olive Dull; Red Dull; Red Spinner;
Wickham's Fancy; Blue Dull; Red Rib Horse Ear; Greenwell; Cinnamon (June) Alder;
State if angling is— entirely free; free except on preserved stretches; etc. Red Ant; Cow Dung; Brown Ant and March Brown.

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The stretch attached to Bunce House demesne is usually preserved but as that house is now occupied by military, it has been made free. Mr. Sheehan, Lodge, Bunce, is the proprietor.

Pike fishing provides very good sport and is readily availed of. The Salmon & trout fishing on the Maigue near Bunce is always very good.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

—

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Bunce, Railway Hotel
Kilmallock, four miles east.
Bruff, five miles N.E. suitable for fishing lower reaches

Local Angling Club — Membership Fee —

Secretary (and Address) —

1944
← Heaviest fish this year 21 lbs.

Heaviest fish this year 3 1/2 lbs.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

Dotted lines for notes on fishing grounds.

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Dotted lines for kinds of fish to be caught.

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

Dotted lines for 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.

Dotted line for representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.

GOLFING

Name of ^{nearest} Club Adare No. of holes 9

Situation and brief description of course :

One of the loveliest inland courses in Ireland. Amidst beautiful woods and medieval ruins.

Name of Professional /

Is there a clubhouse on course ? yes Licensed ? NO

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day 2/6 Per week 15/2

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Upper Conello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bruce PARISH Bruce / Rockhill COUNTY Linn

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Morning Star Nearest point to town (distance) 2 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Small Salmon during good water; Brown Trout.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 6 lbs. Sea trout — Brown trout 8 oz.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon during good flow of water Sea trout — Brown trout Feb - June

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon } Same as for River Maigue
Sea trout } which it adjoins, and forms
Brown trout } boundary of Parish. See Form "B"

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Only a short stretch near Coolen is in Bruce Parish. This is free. The upper reaches of Morning Star are fished by Morning Star Anglers Club, Bruce. See Form "B" for Bruce parish for particulars.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

—

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Bruce, 2 miles.
Kilmalack 6 miles
Bruce 5 miles.

Local Angling Club — Membership Fee —

Secretary —

DATE 15/6/44.

(Signed) J. J. Lynch

Surveyor.s

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH Bowree/Rockhill

BARONY Upper Connello

COUNTY Limerick

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bowree

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<u>Railway Hotel (Ellis Murphy)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>1 flush</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>Name "Railway Hotel" prominently displayed. Not inspected by J. J. B.</u>	
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							

DATE 15/6/44

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed) J. J. Boyle
Surveyor.

Copy filed + filed 1944

P. to P.
held at
Kilmer about 2 four
miles east.

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 *County Limericks. Master - Mrs Alexander, Adare.*

Harriers *Green Harriers.*

Beagles

COURSING

Name of Club *Bruce Coursing Club*. Meeting held annually? *yes*..

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of ^{nearest} Company *Limerick City 16 miles.*

Races on (nights) *Fri & Sat at 8.15.*

SHOOTING

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

A poor shooting district. Parish mainly free. In Rockhill area some pheasant to be found. Snipe and green plover in abundance in low-lying land. About Killacolla at western end of parish grouse is plentiful but this territory had best be included in the Ballygran/Columanwell parish.
If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses.

Shooting Club..... Secy.....

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

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

ROWING AND SAILING

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

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :
 (In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football	NO.	Attached to military post are playing fields for Hurling; Football, Handball, Rugby; Soccer; etc. for the forces only and of course temporary.
Hurling	NO.	
Handball	NO	
Soccer	NO	
Rugby	NO	
Cricket	NO	
Hockey	NO	
Bowls	NO	
Bowling (on public roads)	NO	
Lawn Tennis	Yes at KNOCKMORE 1 mile east.	
Croquet	NO	
Billiards	NO	
Badminton	NO	
Table Tennis	NO	
Bridge Club	NO	
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)	NO	

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.

Bounce coursing club electing.	Promoters Bounce C. Club.
Bounce (Flapper) Sports	Local Committee

DATE 15/6/44

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

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Upper Bonello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Brunce PARISH Brunce / Rockhill COUNTY Link

Location and brief description. Population 200 approx.

A well kept little village on right bank of the pretty river Maigue, which is crossed here by a quaint, picturesque stone bridge. Sixteen miles south of Link and one mile east, off main road to Cork. In midst of a fertile plain. Four miles to east is historic village of Kilmallock. Once a flourishing centre it has now lost most of, if not all its prosperity.

Is there a Town Hall? NO Location —————

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

None. Public fountain in centre of village. NO sewerage. Some houses have private systems, tanks on roofs, force pumps, septic tanks, etc.

PUBLIC SERVICES

← Nearest station Kilmallock Distance 4 miles { Good service to and from village daily. Bus? —————

Public lighting by—Electricity? None. E.S.B. in houses. Gas? —————

DANCING

Dance hall Maigue Theatre Proprietor Wm F. O'Donnell Brunce.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Maigue Theatre Pictures shown Very often by travelling companies. (nights)

Theatre Maigue Theatre. Kind of shows Frequently. Drama, concerts etc by travelling bus & local amateurs. (Drama, Comedy &c.)

G.S. Railway line passes through Brunce but only goods, cattle, etc handled. Nearest passenger service is Kilmallock

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Branch of County Library in Bruce National School.*

Private Lending Libraries *Mr. R. Davis, Bruce, has a small private lending library. Mainly for convenience of military.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R.C. Church *Bruce* Services (Sundays) *7.30 & 10.00.*
do. Rock Hill *9.30 & 11.00*

old time all the year round.

Church of Ireland.

Bruce

3.00 P.M. official time.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Main st., Bruce.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *all branches.*

BANKING

Banks *Provincial Bank - Sub-office*

Wednesdays 12.00 to 2.30 P.M.

McMasters & Seinstler - sub-office

Wednesdays 12.00 to 3 P.M.

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers

None

Photographic Stores

None.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....

Public Baths?..... Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs.....

Cultural Societies.....

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Dairying is principal industry. First class creamery nearby. Corn crushing carried on by water power at old mill. Bakery in village. Blood stock raising was a prominent industry up to a few years ago when local magnate D. R. Browning died.*

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, Burree, is an extremely beautiful structure, built in 1922 of dressed and hammered limestone & resting on high ground at east end of main street. Grounds tastefully planted and well kept.

Church of Ireland, Burree. Beside village (to west) in an old burial ground, in which also stands a castle. A quaint, small, old building, with a pretty 18th century belfry. See picture.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Girls N.S. Burree.

Boys N.S. Burree.

Mixed N.S. ROCKHILL 2 miles to west

Mixed N.S. KILLACOLLA. 4 miles to west.

HOSPITALS

Nearest Hospital at Cross 8 miles distant

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Denis O'Regan, Rourke's Cross. (Main Road to Cork)
Petrol only.
No repair garage.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis Maurice Wallace, Burrell. Small Public Service Veh.
John McKeown, Burrell. do.
Timothy LEENEY, BALLYTIGHE, Burrell.

Motors (Touring).....

Boats (State type).....

Bicycles.....

Caravans.....

Horses.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE 15/7/44

(Signed) P. J. Lynch

Surveyor.

Antiquities.

Parish - Burren/Boothill. Barony - Upper Connello. County - Limerick.

on the left bank of Maigue, in farm yard of Bartholomew O'Callaghan, Lettera, stand two very fine castles. There was a third but base of same was converted into a dwelling & is used by the above named.

After the banishment of O'Donovan who caused King Mahon's death, Brian Boru took Burren & repaired the fort there. The present castles are reputed to have been built by King Donalld More O'Brien who also built St Mary's, Limerick. Later they were enlarged & strengthened by de Lacy.

The tallest & most intact faces the river & is 60 feet high & approx. 20 ft sq at base. Lower narrow as it goes up. There are two well cut limestone gates, in E & W. walls. Pointed, 8 ft high & fine wide. Four stories, 2nd & top vaulted. Fairly perfect but easily negotiable stairs in N/W angle. Walls 6 ft thick. Stairs lighted by numerous slits. High up in W. wall is an unusual window, small, but pointed lead out out of one piece of limestone. No care. Lower portions used as shelters for animals & fowl. Approached by avenue leading to house & farmyard & 400 yds from main road.

To the north is a second castle, lower than the other. Approx 30 ft high & 24 x 18 at base. Walls 6 ft thick. In this the stairs was straight & running through centre of walls, south & east. In reasonably good repair. No care.

The castles were protected by a circular stone wall & their bases formed part thereof. In places the wall was up to 20 ft high & 5 ft thick. Built of immense, uncemented slabs, it is believed to date from an earlier date than castles. Of sand & limestone mixed. Most of the circle is intact & about 40 yards in diam. Many people hold that the work on the wall is pre-Norman.

An account of above to be found in Westropp's churches & castles of Co. Limerick. 354 Lettera (39) page 229

HOWARDSTOWN CHURCH.

Three miles north of Bruce, on the lands of Coolken Ho. & adjacent to left bank of the Maigue are the ruins of an early church. Portions of south wall & west gable, in good condition, stand but are featureless. North wall which is only a few feet high forms boundary of burial ground in which the ruins stand. Beside avenue leading to Coolken Ho. residence of Mr. Wm Hunt.

Bruce Church.

On the site in burial ground now occupied by C. of S. there stood an early church. Was demolished at end of 18th cent & stones used to construct present building.

Killacolla Church site.

Three miles west of Bruce at Killacolla is a small enclosure where once stood a church. It has long since disappeared & nothing is known locally. Presently used as a burial place for unbaptised babies.

FORTS.

In the Bruce district are countless forts and they appear to form concentric circles about the Lios Ollium. Scarcely a single farm, but does not contain one of these green mounds. Most are covered with bushes & trees as ever today people are fearful of interfering with them. Lios Ollium was the palace of King Ollib Olun of Munster, in 3rd century. In Conlon's farm, just inside fence at Rank's Cross (1 mile west of Bruce) is a large fort with double rings. Nearly levelled. A similar fort occurs on Lynch's farm at Ballynought, one mile east of Bruce. Mention has already been made of Dim Eoian Maige.

~~III~~ V
CURIOUSITIES.

Nurses Chair. Two miles S/E of Buncree the smooth dome shaped hill of KNOCKSOUNA (CNOC SAHINA) rises unexpectedly out of the rich plain. Of old it was called Ard na Riog and great fires blazed on its summit on nights that similar fires blazed on hill of Ward, in Meath. On the south side of the hill, where it slopes to river Loobergl is the famous and well known NURSE'S CHAIR. Here in this great stone seat the fairy nurse was wont to sit nursing her airy offspring. A niche in side of stone is pointed out as the repository for the "child's sanctum" Anybody sitting on chair for first time will have a wish granted. Tradition has it that vast treasure is hidden close by. In a dream, a man was once shown the location of the treasure & with some neighbours proceeded to dig one night. Close under the surface they came on a large slab of stone which they proceeded to lift. Immediately they heard a noise as of great wind & looking up saw a black bull with fire shooting from his nostrils. Had with fear they fled. Next morning on returning to the spot they could not find an upturned sod. No further attempts were made at recovery of the treasure.

CHURCH & CASTLE.

In burial ground beside village stands a pretty church beside a strong de Lacy castle. See antiquary.

In the townland of ~~Knocksouma~~ Dankardstown north of Knocksouma hill, is a farm where some unusual features occur. A number of drains carrying a good volume of water suddenly empty themselves, with much noise, into small openings in the ground. These openings are known locally as "SLUGH RAS". In one particular field where a number of these occur, a few years ago, the ground suddenly collapsed in two places about 5 yards apart & sunk to a depth of 2 feet, leaving two perfectly circular holes, each about 5 feet in diam. These holes are still there but no one has ever investigated them.

Bowree.

The little village of Bowree is pleasantly placed on the right bank of the Ribney Maigue, which flows under a very quaint, six span bridge. A little further on it washes the walls of the old mill & turns the old wheel which gives the scene a charming, old world grace. The river north & south of the bridge could be extremely pretty but it is practically choked by weeds & bushes and no attempt is made to clear them away. The river flows under the back doors of a line of single storey cottages, bordering the street.

Along both banks of the river are very pretty walks and with a little care would be some of the nicest in the country. The R. Maigue usually termed "SILVER" and justly so is one of the loveliest in the country although very sadly neglected.

Very pleasant cycle spins may be made in all directions. To the east is the historic town of Kilmallock, with its pretty mediaval ruins and old houses and some miles west is the good and prosperous town of Charleville (RATHLUIRC).

In the Lios Allium nearby, the old Munster palace of the Kings, the ancient Maigue Poets held many sessions. Here Sean O'Garra, the founder of the Court of Poetry of Boshma (Bowree village is actually in Boshma parishes) presided over assemblies which included Sean O'Cuama and Seán Mac Braith, ("an Manóire Singsh") - the merry pedlar. Looney is buried in Broom & O'Grath in Collegiate church in Kilmallock. O'Sonnell is buried at Ballysallagh near Charleville.

In this part also in 1740 the singers of the Maigue met for the last time.

HISTORIC SITES

* Swift and
Anibol was the
Jungfrau of Brian
he defeated Malloy
etc. in 1014 at
Royal seats, scenes of
historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner Historical or traditional notes.

DUN COGAR MAGE. A short distance ^{west} of Bruere bordering road is a strong fort known locally as Le Raheens. This is regarded as Dun cogar mage built by Brian Boru. When the Kings of Munster transferred to Cashel, Bruere became the chief seat of the Uí Fidgente and while Mahon was King of Munster, O'Donovan was ruling chief at Bruere. It was to a feast at ~~the fort~~ ^{BRUERE.} that O'Donovan invited Mahon in 976 in order to destroy him. O'D. conspired with Malloy & Ivan, the Dane, and when Mahon was leaving on a tour of his Kingdom, O'D. provided an escort who slew Mahon while they were passing through the Gap of Red Chair, leading to Co. Cork. See picture & survey report on parish of Ardpatrick. X.

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.

EAMON DE VALERA. One mile north of Bruere, on Bruere/Atlaca road in townland of Knockmore, one comes on the neat well kept cottage, where from the age of 2 years, Eamon de Valera came to know Ireland and its people. Mrs Mahon, N.T. first cousin of Mr de Valera now lives there.

JOHN GUBBINS, BRUERE HOUSE. See Mansions section. John had a brother named STAMER who was 6'6" tall. A Captain in the Crimean war, he distinguished himself (Stamer) by discarding his sword and using a heavy blackthorn stick with telling effect. Both John & Stamer were born at Kilfush, Knocklong. See picture of letter ^{house} submitted with survey report on parish of HOSPITAL. (in 1943) Stamer born?

COUNT WILLIAMS DE LAECY. The townland of Ballytigue, one mile west of Bruere was the birthplace of General, Count Wm de ^{de} Laecy who commanded the very famous siege of Shan in 1732. Due to his courage and the bravery of the Regiment of Ulster, the Arabs were defeated. He was a Knight of the Order of Santiago.

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.

Three miles west of Bruere on the land of Mrs D. Bishop, of Lenbrook, adjacent to road, are mineral springs - sulphur, iron and magnesium. Some years ago country's local people frequented them and dancing and revelry was the order of the day. Now, nobody goes there, though the wells are in good condition and the landowners have no objection to people visiting them.

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.

ANCIENT CARVING. Near the waterfall just beside the old mill at Bruce is a flat stone with erude carving representing an animal and her young. The author of "Rambles in the South of Ireland" who visited Bruce considered it to be of great interest & antiquity.

FIONN'S ROCK. In middle of R. Maigue just opposite Lios Ollium $\frac{1}{2}$ M. ^{west} of Bruce is a large rock. The Lios, once the palace of King Ollibac Ollum, was at one time occupied by a beautiful lady who had broken the hearts of all the young nobles in the country. One day a fair & handsome warrior arrived and his name was Fionn mac Cumhail. The handsome lady at once lost her heart & Fionn returned her love. Time and again he returned but there came a time when he returned no more and the lovers became bitter enemies. The lady's hate increased each day & she vowed to destroy Fionn. One day while on the walled tower of the Lios with her little niece she spied Fionn coming towards her. All her old hate surged up but she could find nothing to hurl at him so catching up her little niece she swung her round her head and hurled her at Fionn. Like most women her aim was faulty and the child was dashed to pieces CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC. mid stream. A hollow on the rock is brief account of old customs, traditions, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns. It is since called Fionn's Rock.

St Munchin's Well. At back of village pump near cross of Bruce is St Munchin's Well. Now, a hollow groove between some large stones. Two smooth incisions on the edge of one stone are said to mark the spot where the St knelt in prayer. On another are lines (natural perhaps) which some believe to be OGHAM scores. With this well also goes the usual story of desecration causing it to remove across the river to DELHI (local name for a field). The saint's feast day, 2nd January was once observed as a parish holiday and rounds were paid at the well. To day no rounds are paid, the well is neglected and many local people do not even know of its existence.

St Patrick's Cross. In a few places crosses are branded on the arms of each member of the household, with a burnt sally rod, on the feast of St Patrick. Custom almost dead.

Cure for Gripe in calves. Calves suffering from gripe are still treated by some old inhabitants in a strange manner. A piece of string is held over back of sick animal, knotted, twisted and looped. The string is held by both ends, then pulled and what appeared a hopeless mess and tangle, unravels in a moment DATE owing to the special knotting. The cure is called Surveyor. Snaidhinn na Pist. There is doubt about its Justice Cross, Id., Dublin