

(Limerick N.E.)

8

FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Caherconlish PARISH Caherconlish COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

From hill at south of village there is a splendid view of a fertile limestone valley of several thousand acres, sparsely wooded, stretching to the foot of Slieve Delim mountain. A chain of old castles stretch right across this valley in a seemingly straight line. The major portion of this valley is outside the above parish.

GEOLOGY

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

Nothing of geological interest in the Parish of Caherconlish.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

None intact. There were two very fine houses.

Caherconlish House which is presently a Creamery was built by a Major Wilson from whom it passed to the Abbott family who resided there for some hundreds of years. It was built of dressed limestone from the estate. It contained an Adams ceiling & fire place, destroyed by an accidental fire (in Creamery) in 1925. The second house was "Boskell" this was occupied by the regular Army during civil war period but Army was routed by irregular forces who burned the house with miscelous contents. Property of de Ross-Rose family, descended through maternal line from the FRENCH family who entertained King William at Old Boskell (see historic sites) prior to the siege of Limerick. Some vessels & plate used at this feast were lost in the fire. No trace of house now. Stones used to make fences on the estate which was divided by Land Commission.

ANTIQUITIES

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

The burial ground, both Protestant & R. Catholic, is situated off the main street. It contains the ruin of an old Protestant church built about middle of 17th century, on a site formerly occupied by a ruined Franciscan Abbey. Beneath the tower there is a slab bearing the following inscription: "Vault beneath chancel of this church erected in 1640 by William Gabbett of Caherline, great grandson of Robert Gabbott (different spelling) of Acton Burnell Salop. Esq. of the Yeoman Guard A.D. 2 Henry VII, 1486".

There are sites of several castles in the parish & several more just outside parish boundary. One is situated on Knockatanna Hill, one mile to east of village. Only foundation remains. It was a Burke stronghold.

There is the remains of another on the land of Mr. Tim O'Brien Greenane. All that remains is a lump of masonry about 8 feet in diameter. I am told it was an O'Connor stronghold.

There is a very splendid ruin on the land of Mr. O'Brien of Carrig & mile north of village. This castle is called Carrig O'Keilly & was held by O'Keilly clan about 1691, when King William passed by. It is built on a solid mass of rock about 70 yards in circumference & 15 feet high. On three sides the face of the rock is perpendicular practically & on the fourth side there are rough steps, now overgrown, leading to a narrow doorway. The main part of the building is a square tower (about 30 feet square) & about 40 feet high. There is a perfect stone spiral stairway & two of the apartments have semicircular ceilings of solid stone. The roof is flat. There are three dungeons, 8' x 3' & the only entrance to these is from their roofs. Depth in each case would be about 10 feet. Adjoining this is a single storey building which would appear to have been added later, & having a gabled end. There are no fireplaces. The building is in ruin of no kind of care, which I consider a shame. There were several circular forts in the district but most of them have been cut away & levelled off. There are the remains of one good one, through which the new road was cut, and which adjoins the village & from which it got its name. (City of the Lios) On the lands of Mr. Blackwell is a curious stone about 8 feet high, 5 feet wide & 1 1/2 feet thick. The face of it is smooth & back semi-circular. I am told there are a number of such stones throughout neighbouring parishes & are believed to have been boundary stones in ancient times, denoting property of different clans.

HISTORIC SITES

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

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

In the lands of Mr. Nelligan, Boscwell, there is a mound known as Ginkles grave. Before the siege of Limerick, General Ginkle was camped here, when a plague of enteric fever broke out amongst his men, several hundreds of whom died. The bodies were heaped here & covered with stones. With time, the stones became overgrown & even today, only a very thin layer of earth cover them. At spots the stones are exposed and here & there holes have been made by curious folk, who however found nothing. The mound is about 50 x 30 feet, and about 6 feet high in centre. Cattle have access to site and seem to congregate there. No care is taken of it. On outskirts of village there is a small park known as ~~Boscwell~~ ^{Boscwell} where one time there was a Protestant college but the residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. ~~no trace.~~

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES

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

Adjoining above site is place known as Old Boscwell. This was the original residence of the Frend family & in the lawn in front of House King William dined. (see Mansions, Castles & Estates) The place is still known as Paire an Eir. due to the splendour & richness of the feast. There is now no sign of the residence which was of the castellated type. The walls were standing till about two years ago, when the owner of the site pulled it down & used the stones to build cattle sheds. For generations it was known as the Old Wreck. It is believed that this castle was raided & wrecked by Irish rebels after the siege of Limerick, because of William having been entertained there. Hence the newer house (which I have already mentioned was burned in 1822) was built by the Frend family. The owner of the site is Mr. Ryan. Leading to ~~house~~ ^{site} is an avenue of very old trees. Here begins what is known as Williams Track. (see foot at attached)

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 road from Caherconlish to Arch St Lawrence Church there is a good Iron Well. (On road side) Some years ago there was also a Sulphur Well but its location has been lost. The Iron Well is covered on three sides by slabs of stone & there is a roof of similar material. The well itself is a stone trough into which the water trickles, and from which there is an overflow drain. It is well kept but very little used by the local people.

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.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

at the back of Inch St. Laurence Church is saint Lawrence's well. Its waters are supposed to have the power of healing sore eyes. On the 15th August & the six days preceding it, people make visits to well, when they recite certain prayers, connected with the healing process.

(Signed)

I. J. K. Lynch
Surveyor.

DATE 27th June 1942

Historic Sites

From the feast at Old Bostell, King William followed a circuitous route round the town of Calerconlish and for a considerable distance the track may be followed. In dry summer weather a wide track may be seen in some of the adjoining fields as the grass turns brown & this is believed to be William's track to Limerick. The roads presently about Calerconlish were begun in 1812.

Calerconlish was a walled Norman town with a watch tower at each corner, and at one point there is still a little rise known as Castle Hill, supposed to have been the site of one of these towers. It was held by de Burg & was raided by the Clan O'Brien who burned it "from the inner citadel to outer walls." This burning may account for the fact that there is no thatched house in the village, and yet all the houses appear old. Some of the houses have high pitched roofs.

On the hill of Ballybrood (Down of slaughter) there is an ancient watch tower, presently a public house owned by a Mrs Hannan. This hill was the site of an old established fair or Aonach, at which faction fights always took place between the visiting tribes. Finally it became the scene of many pitched battles until this tower was built & garrisoned by a number of armed soldiers, who were also needed to prevent raids on the local land-lord as agrarian troubles were frequent.

Burial Places.

In the porch of the Protestant Church, which was built in 1871, there is a fine monumental slab bearing coat of arms & crest of the Gabbett family of Caherconish House. Here it was removed for its preservation from the old burial ground. The inscription is as follows.

"Here lyeth the body of William Gabbett of Ballyvaene, who died ~~on~~ the 27 of August 1713 aged 54 years and the body of MARCY GABBETT, his wife who died the 18 day of April 1718 aged 50 years. Likewise the body of Thomas Spire late of Rathcannon who died the 19 day of August 1817 aged 34 years and the body of Mary Gabbett, wife to William Gabbett of Caherline, Esquire, who died the 22 of November 1717 aged 31 years."

P. J. K. L.

27/6/42

Historic Liles continued

This fair or annual in the end became an ordinary cattle, sheep & pig fair and was held annually on the 12th June each year. In 1941 it was not held owing to epidemic of foot & mouth disease. This year it was not revived.

P. D. K. L.

27/6/42

(1)

BARONY of CLANWILLIAM

TOWN or
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In the porch of the Protestant Church, which was built in 1871, there is a fine monumental slab bearing Coat of Arms and Crest, of the Gabbett family of Caherconlish House. Here it was removed for its preservation from the old burial ground. The inscription is as follows:-

"Here lyeth the body of William Gabbeth of Ballyvorene, who died the 27th August, 1713, aged 54 years, and the body of Marcy Gabbett, his wife who died the 18th April, 1718, aged 50 years. Likewise the body of Thomas Spire late of Rathcannon who died the 19th August, 1817, aged 34 years and the body of Mary Gabbett, wife to William Gabbett of Caherline, Esquire, who died the 22 November 1717, aged 31 years.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS.

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CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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Date 27th June, 1942. (Signed) P. J. K. Lynch.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Caherconlish PARISH Caherconlish COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 300 (approx)

Caherconlish is situated 8 miles to the south of Limerick City in the heart of a rich limestone valley. It consists of one street, terminating in a square with green patch in centre. Three fountains supply water to residents. There is no thatched house in the village or near it.

Is there a Town Hall? yes Location In village (for dancing)

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

No public water supply or sewerage in any of the houses. All private supplies and arrangements

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Boher Distance 2 1/2 miles Bus? Daily Service (20 or more)

Public lighting by—Electricity? No public lighting Gas? —

DANCING

Dance hall yes Proprietor Mr Patrick Mc Cormack

this hall which is called the town hall is also used for other forms of amusement such as concerts & card games

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas None Pictures shown (nights) —

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

(see above notes on dance hall)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries..... *None*

Private Lending Libraries..... *None*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Catholic Churches..... *Two*..... Services (Sundays) *10 & 11.15 Official time.*

*There is no church in the village. One R.C. Church at Inch St Lawrence & one at Caberlinne. The former is about 1 1/2 miles to the west & the latter 3 miles to the south of Caberlinne. Church of Ireland Church is just outside the village where service is held ~~POSTAL FACILITIES~~ *at 12 noon. Official time**

Location of Post Office..... *Main Street, Caberlinne.*

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

BANKING

Banks..... *None*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers..... *None*

Photographic Stores..... *None*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *None*..... Location..... *—*

Public Baths?..... *None*..... Location..... *—*

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, save a new statue of Christ the King, erected in the village square, by private subscription.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

None

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Village school was destroyed by fire in March '42. Classes presently held in R.C. Church at Inlet St Lawrence. School also at Caberline. No college.

HOSPITALS

None

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *Balaham market 3rd Thursday of Month*
No cattle or other fairs.

Weekly market day *None* Half-holiday *Wednesday.*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

No garage or petrol stations, but petrol could be purchased in tins (in peace times) from Mr W. O'Connell.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *One Hackney Car to seat 5. Owned by Mr Matt Bourke. V.8 Ford.*

Motors (Touring) *None*

Boats (State type) *None*

Bicycles *None for Hire.*

Caravans *None*

Horses *None for Hire.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *There is no regular camping ground but from time to time trippers camp about, without any objections from land owners.* Landowner

Local Improvements Committee *None*

Secretary

DATE *27th June. 1942* (Signed) *P. J. K. Lynch.*
Surveyor.

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.

.....

GOLFING

Name of Club None No. of holes

Situation and brief description of course :

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

Name of Professional

Is there a clubhouse on course? Licensed?

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day Per week

RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year..... *None*

Under which rules?..... */*

Situation of course..... */*

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds *County Limerick Hounds & Scarten Black & Sans.*

Harriers *Limerick Harriers*

Beagles */*

COURSING

Name of Club..... *None* 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 free on Caherline Bog. Duck, snipe, curlew & occasionally wild geese. Caherline Bog is situated just outside the village on the south side

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

Free

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..... *None*
Hurling..... *Yes. Local team. No regular sports field.*
Handball..... *Yes*..... Handball alley?..... *Yes. In village*
Soccer..... *None*
Rugby..... *None*
Cricket..... *None*
Hockey..... *None*
Bowls..... *None*
Bowling (on public roads)..... *None*
Lawn Tennis..... *Yes*..... Kinds of courts..... *6 green courts*
Croquet..... *None*
Billiards..... *None*
Badminton..... *Local tennis club expect to have a Badminton*
Table Tennis..... *club in the winter of '42/43 in Village Hall.*
Bridge Club..... *None*
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)..... *No cross road dancing. Occasionally short dances are held in village hall. Usually 8 to 11. For charitable objects.*

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.

Tennis Tournament..... Promoters..... *Local Club.*
No special dates. Usually held during July.
Bally brood Fair (Aonach) held on 12th June.
Visits made to St. Lawrence's Well at rear of church of same name on 15th Aug. & for the six days preceding it. Cure for weak or sore eyes.

DATE..... *27th June, 1942.*

(Signed)

P. J. K. Lynch

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING.

BARONY OF B. lamwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bahonishil PARISH Bahonishil COUNTY Limerick

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?
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None

Guest or Boarding Houses

None

Restaurants and Cafés

None

DATE 27th June, 1942

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

(Plain sheet of foolscap to be used if space here is not adequate)