

(Limerick N.E.)

19 FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Lanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Castle Comell PARISH Castle Comell COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

From village of Castle Comell there is an unrivalled view of the Lordly Shannon, with stately mansions along its banks on either side. Nicely wooded, with pleasant walks. At Castle Comell commence the famous falls of Doonas, half a mile distant. Across river is the lovely demesne of Waterpark, where there is a collection of trees from all over the world, collected by the HELPS family when in residence there.

GEOLOGY

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

The country all about is flat & mainly of a boggy nature. There are no unusual features. It was at one time very densely wooded, but all trees are now cut away.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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


Castle Comell was once famous for its many mansions but now few are left intact.

At the western approach to village is Woodlands, home of Mr. D. Shaw, of bacon fame, overlooking river. Early 19th century house, fitted with valuable old fireplaces. Built by a family named Rich. There is a good library of old books & some valuable paintings & drawings. Good gardens. Neither house nor gardens open to public. There are also some valuable items of original furniture from early & mid-nineteenth century.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Abbeys. At Bloon Island, an islet on Shannon at Castleconnell are the remains of a small Franciscan monastery, built by Rensald de Burgo in 1291. Property owned by Mr. Merscall, Spa, Castleconnell. In an excellent state of repair but does not appear to be in receipt of any care. Built mainly of large stones (sandstone) & on one large slab to left outside door is a carving of cross & tabernacle. Inside, eleven circular stones range about the church, five at either side and one under east gable. They are supposed to represent one Pater noster & ten aves. Dimensions, 50 x 21 feet. Eastern gable intact. Western gable only height of side walls. doorway was eight feet wide. Eastern light had round headed splay. There was one window to north & two in south. These would appear to have been altered as they are surmounted by flags. On a flat rock about 12 yards from door is a deeply cut

? San cross  Some people hold it was a font. From time to time creaking noises accompanied by sound of horses hooves are heard in vicinity of ruin?

Churches At back of present Protestant church in Castleconnell is the ruin of an early church known as Shadbally. At its foot the grand-son of Brian Boru was murdered by the Prince of Ireland in 1174. Was destroyed by Ginkle in 1691 when he blew ^{up} the castle nearly. Only foundations now remain, with a few feet of wall.

Is situated in Protestant section of graveyard which surrounds church.

The Hermitage. Now in ruins, having been burned during civil war period. Was the summer seat of the Lords Massy & was a beautiful early 19th century mansion set in delightful park lands. Right on edge of river. The grounds are much frequented by trippers & picnickers. Having been planted with beautiful and rare trees, it makes a welcome retreat in summer. Present owner is Mr Moran.

Mount Shannon. Was seat of Earls of Clare. Now in ruins, having been burned during civil war period. Was one of the largest houses in these islands. Had 366 windows & was of the Grecian type of architecture from mid-18th century. When Earldom of Clare became extinct Mount Shannon was bought by an American millionaire named Nevins who spent a great deal of money on its improvement. Close to ruins of mansion in the former ice house, lie three marine coffins, containing the remains of Nevins; his wife & daughter.

Rich-Hill, Lisnagry. Home of Mr Hawley whose family have been there for 300 years. A good library & also good family paintings and collections of old Indian brass ware. Mr Hawley was in Indian service for 40 years for which he received Star of India decoration.

Woodsdown House. Was home of the Barnatynes of flour milling fame. From whom it passed to their successors in the baron - Goodbodies. Very fine 19th century mansion on the banks of Abulcain river at Annacotty. Could not gain admission as Mr Goodbody was away. Hope to, later.

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Rich-Hill, Lisnagry. Home of Mr Howley whose family have been there for 300 years. A good library & also good family paintings and collections of old Indian brass ware. Mr Howley was in Indian service for 40 years for which he received Star of India decoration.

Woodsdown House. Was home of the Barnatynes of flour milling fame. From whom it passed to their successors in the baron - Goodbody. Very fine 19th century mansion on the banks of Abulcain river at Annacotty. Could not gain admission as Mr Goodbody was away. Hope to, later.

Shanfields, Lisnary. Shanfields House is the home of Richard Vandeleur Bourke, descendant of famous Bourkes of Clanwilliam, through the Lord Castleconnell branch. His family have been in the district for over 700 years. The house is late 18th century but was altered from time to time by members of the family. There is a very splendid library of old books most of them collected by the present owner's grand-father who was Governor of N.S. Wales from 1831 to 1837 & to whom a monument has been erected in Sydney, in recognition of his justice. This man's diary & private letters to his people at Shanfields were sold a few years ago for £850. In the Hall, drawing & dining rooms are some very fine paintings, two of which are attributed to Sir Joshua Reynolds. Neither house, nor grounds are open to the public.

The Grange, Castleconnell. Home of Mr & Mrs H. A. Harold-Barry, situated at northern end of village, right on the river's edge. Formerly home of the Bannatyne family. Mr Harold-Barry traces his descent from King Harold, a drawing of whom hangs in the library, where there are some very old books. House contains some priceless pieces of furniture, china, etc collected by Mrs Harold Barry. Mrs H. A. Barry claims house to be very old & certainly some features appear old as there are a lot of oak beams to be seen. House or grounds are not open to public.

Mansions, etc.

1117

Boobawn. In village of Basteromell. Was home of the Van Sittart family, one of whom was British Ambassador in Vienna at time of Anchluss (Sir Robert Van Sittart). House owned by a Mr Moran and presently occupied by military. All old contents were removed by Van Sittarts when they left in 1922. Was a lovely timbered old mansion. Date?

Shanacloon. In village. Was a seat of the O'Grady. Changed hands about 1922. A mansion of the Georgian period. Presently occupied by military. Was idle for a long period.

Erinagh House & Erinagh Beg. Were seats of the O'Grady family. Early 19th century houses. Were demolished some years ago.

Summerhill. Home of the Vincents, one of whom presented the Anchluss estate to the Nation. Demolished a few years ago.

Waterpark House. Home of the Phelps family. Built in 1867. A most elaborately appointed mansion. Presently being demolished for Mr Latham, present owner.

Laurel House. In village. Presently occupied by a Miss Lillis. Was home of the La Motte family who left in 1923. House now contains no valuables.

W.K.L.

Antiquities contd.
churches.

II

KILLEENAGARRIFF. An early church ^{site} dating from opening year of 13th century. Founded by Johan, widow of J. de Burgo. stands on right bank of Mulcaire river on lands of Richard O'Kalley. 36 x 22 feet. East end fell about middle of last century. South window had trefoil headed light and long splay. It is of grit stone inside & limestone outside. West end has a round headed light and a bell chamber. Walls 16 x 3 feet. Present ruins are from early 15th century. It is completely covered with ivy & was very hard to study & I have been told that ~~the~~ ^{bell chamber} had an ogee-head cut in ^{one} stone. Surrounded by a graveyard.

CASTLES.

Leathcomell. There was a residence or fort called Caslaun Ua Conaing in 1174 where Dermot & Malton O'Brien were blinded by their relative King Donald. Shortly afterwards it fell to the de Burgos, with whom it rested until its destruction by Quil under King Conor na Suidaine about 1260. Here one of the de Burgos harboured Durland O'Brien before one of his raids on de Blares territory to the east. About 1300, castle was enlarged & strengthened by Walter de Burgo, but it was again destroyed by the Burmas in 1315. Some time after, it was again repaired by Richard de Burgo, later known as Bourke. His son Walter made a partition of his lands about 1400-1410

(Castlemell) to his son Richard he gave Zifferny;
Castlemell & Caherconlish. William, his son held
it about 1450; his son Edmund, about 1490, from
whom it passed to grandson William. The latter was
knighthood in 1535, after he & his son Zybott were
pardoned. He was known as Wm Bourke mac Edmund.
He was later created Baron Bourke of Castlemell for
his services against James of Desmond about 1580.
Of his sons Theobald fell in battle in 1578; three others
were Barons in succession. The Lords of Castlemell
play a large part in local history thence forward.
William fought in civil war, sat in Parliament of Kilkenny
& went overseas to Charles II in the Netherlands. Castle
surrendered to Commonwealth in 1651. In 1690 it was
surrendered to King William. On retreat of latter, it
was occupied by Irish until Aug 1691 when, after two
days siege, the garrison capitulated to the Prince of Hesse.
Ginkle then had the castle blown up. William, the 8th
Baron fought for King James & then went to France.

Remnants stand on a steep flat topped rock between
Shannon & road & it is said to have had towers at each
angle. Traces remain to S.W. & N.W. with fragments of walls
& arches. Count measures 150 x 100 feet approx. Local
tradition attributes its erection in first instance to the O'Briens
& its destruction to Oliver Cromwell. On Olescall's land &
in village of Castlemell. Large heap of masonry to south-
east of road is believed to have been part of castle blown
there by explosion when castle was blown up. All this information
given by Mr Richard Vandeleur Bourke of Shanfields, direct descendant.

(Castlemell) To his son Richard he gave Zifferany; Castlemell & Caherconlish. William, his son held it about 1450; his son Edmund, about 1490, from whom it passed to grandson William. The latter was knighted in 1535, after he & his son Zybott were pardoned. He was known as Wm Bourke mac Edmund. He was later created Baron Bourke of Castlemell for his services against James of Desmond about 1580. Of his sons Theobald fell in battle in 1578; three others were Barons in succession. The Lords of Castlemell play a large part in local history thence forward. William fought in civil war, sat in Parliament of Kilkenny & went overseas to Charles II in the Netherlands. Castle surrendered to Commonwealth in 1651. In 1690 it was surrendered to King William. On retreat of latter, it was occupied by Irish until Aug 1691 when, after two days siege, the garrison capitulated to the Prince of Hesse. Ginckle then had the castle blown up. William, the 8th Baron fought for King James & then went to France.

Remnants stand on a steep flat topped rock between Shannon & road & it is said to have had towers at each angle. Traces remain to S.W. & N.W. with fragments of walls & arches. Count measures 150 x 100 feet approx. Local tradition attributes its erection in first instance to the O'Briens & its destruction to Oliver Cromwell. On Ellescall's land & in village of Castlemell. Large heap of masonry to south-east of road is believed to have been part of castle blown there by explosion when castle was blown up. All this information given by Mr Richard Vandeleur Bourke of Thomfields, direct descendant.

Antiquities

III

Forts, etc.

There are few forts in the parish of
Castle Connell, but there is one fairly perfect one,
on the lands of Mr Joseph Ryan, Rakeen,
Lisnagry, and the remains of others at Montpelier.

Apart from castle in village itself, I could
not trace any others in the parish.

P. D. K. P.

BROOKLYN
ROBERTSON
LIBRARIAN

J. Lemon. Esq.,
F.T.A., Dublin

Dear Sir,

Enclosed is a picture of western doorway of Clonkeen Rectory, dating from late 11th century & of Romanesque architecture. It is in parish of Clunrol but just within the boundary of Clonwilliam Barony. It will be fully dealt with in survey of Clunrol parish, if & when survey work is resumed in Spring. As I was passing it on my way back from portion of Castlecomell parish, I thought it might be well to take picture of doorway. The building is shaded by tall trees which made taking of picture rather difficult but I hope to get a good one when trees are bare of leaves. It is 46 x 17 feet; walls 14 x 4 feet with antae at each corner. West door is of three recessed orders, the arch highly decorated with dog tooth mouldings & beadings.

Yours v. faithfully,
P.D.K. Lynch,
Surveyor.

24-10-42

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Castlecomell PARISH Castle Comell 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 Shannon Nearest point to town (distance) through village

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon, ~~Pike~~, ~~Eels~~ Guilse

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 22 lbs. Guilse Sea trout 3-4 lbs. Brown trout 1 lb.
(fish up to 50 lbs have been caught)

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon March to July Eels Nov to Feb Brown trout April to end of season

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon Blue Charm; Silver Parrot; Sahobber; & Standard Patterns
Sea trout Low water flies as well in summer
Brown trout Usual patterns; Sedges do well in evening

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

all stretches of Shannon preserved by the Shannon Fisheries, Diamond Weir, Limerick.

The charges for fishing are 10/- to 30/- per rod per day according to season. Boats are included in this charge.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Shannon Fisheries supply boats to those authorised to fish.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Castlecomell or Limerick. Some regular English visitors have lodges at Castle Comell.

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee —

Secretary (and Address) None

Pike up to 35 lbs & Perch are very plentiful. For this type of fishing there is only a nominal charge.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

Dotted lines for notes on fishing grounds.

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Dotted lines for notes on kinds of fish.

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

Dotted lines for notes on boat owners and charges.

Bait available locally ? Fishing tackle ?

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

in Limerick at David

GOLFING

Name of Club ^{nearest} *Bastletroy Golf Club* No. of holes *18*

Situation and brief description of course :

One mile from outskirts of Limerick just off Dublin Road. 3 miles from Bastletroy on road to Limerick. Very well kept links with excellent turf and natural features. Situated a belt of waterworks, a few hundred yards to East of main Dublin Road.

Name of Professional *Mr Cassidy*

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

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

Is there a fixture here?

RACING

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

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

Under which rules?..... /

Situation of course *Limerick City is nearest place races are held.*

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *6 hare Hounds & Limerick County Hounds are within easy reach.*

Harriers *Limerick Harriers accessible.*

Beagles *Where do these hounds meet?*

COURSING

Name of Club *None. Nearest is at Ballysimon .5 miles away.* Meeting held annually? *None at Castlebarnet*

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company *None at Castlebarnet. Nearest is at Limerick.*

Races on (nights) *Friday & Saturday at 8-15 P.M.*
Season commences on night of 11th March & continues to end of Oct.)

SHOOTING

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

*Rough shooting free on surrounding territory & bog.
Duck, snipe & Woodcock are plentiful.
Some grouse & Pheasant are also to be found.*

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

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

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.

NO Rowing & yacht clubs. Row boats ply on river above Castlebarnet. Opposite village boating is impossible owing to rocky nature of river bed.

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 *Ahane Team - Senior . Playing field at Ahane*
 Hurling *do. - Junior & Minor. do.*
 Handball *None* Handball alley? *—*
 Soccer *None*
 Rugby *None*
 Cricket *None*
 Hockey *None*
 Bowls *None*
 Bowling (on public roads) *None*
 Lawn Tennis *No public courts.* Kinds of courts *—*
 Croquet *None*
 Billiards *None*
 Badminton *None*
 Table Tennis *None*
 Bridge Club *None*
 Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) *There is a Camogie team in Castlebarnell & also in Ahane. No cross road dancing.*

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.

There is a swimming gala at Castlebarnell annually in August. Promoters *Blue Star Swimming Club. Limerick*

DATE *14th Oct 1942.*

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

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Castle Connell PARISH Castle Connell COUNTY Limerick

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR ~~LAKE~~ Mulcarie Nearest point to town (distance) 3 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Small Salmon & Peal (Gibbe) Brown Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 10 lbs Sea trout — Brown trout 3/4 lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon June/Sept. Sea trout — Brown trout April/Sept.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon Standard patterns

Sea trout —

Brown trout do.

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

Preserved (Portion in Castle Connell parish)

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Shannon Fisheries, Shannon Weir, Limerick.

The stretches beyond Castle Connell area are entirely free.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

No boats required. Nominal charges.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Castle Connell or Limerick.

The Limerick Trout Anglers Association fish this river.

Local Angling Club above Membership Fee —

Secretary —

DATE 14th Oct. 1942.

(Signed) P. K. Lynch
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE Bastlemell PARISH Bastlemell COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description.

Population 350 Approx.

On the left bank of the Shannon, six miles north east of Limerick is Bastlemell, which was famous in 18th century as a spa. A well kept village surrounded by prettily wooded demesnes. Famous for salmon fishing. Bastle from which village gets its name was once the stronghold of the O'Briens, Kings of Thomond.

Is there a Town Hall? yes Location ellain St.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

There is no public park or recreation grounds. The land about the ruins of bastle were once greatly used by the public as a kind of park, being very prettily situated on rivers edge but the present owner keeps a cross bull there in order to keep the people out.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

No public water or sewerage system. Private arrangements exist in a good many of village houses.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station In village Distance at hand Bus? S.R. daily

Public lighting by—Electricity? Electricity Gas? NO.

DANCING

Dance hall The Spa Hall Proprietor The Misses Hartigan
Ahane Parish Hall Local Committee.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Lawn Hall Pictures shown periodically,
(nights) by Travelling Companies.

Theatre Lawn Hall Kind of shows concerts, plays, etc.
(Drama, Comedy &c.) periodically.

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *None*
Private Lending Libraries *None*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R.C. Church *Castle Connell* } Services (Sundays) *8-30 & 11 A.M.*
R.C. Church *Ahane* } *9-30 A.M.*
Church of Ireland, *Castle Connell* } *8-30 & 11 A.M.*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Main St., Castle Connell*
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *All services.*

BANKING

Banks *None.*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *Mr George Lee, Shannon House, Castle Connell. All fishing requisites. fly, baits, rods, nets, etc.*
Photographic Stores *None.*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *yes* Location *Worlds End, Castle Connell*
Public Baths? *yes* Location *Worlds End do.*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs *Parish Club in Town Hall, (Men only)*
for cards etc.

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 a beautiful Celtic cross outside Catholic Church erected to the memory of the White family, who during building of church gave considerable financial assistance to the then Parish Priest - Rev. Fr. Hennessy.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

Catholic Church of Gothic architecture. Started Sept 1858 and completed in August 1863. Built of dressed limestone and having a graceful spire!

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

National Schools situated at Castle Connell; (Boys' & Girls')
Ahan; (Boys' & Girls') Elmontpelier; (mixed)
and Rich Hill; (mixed)

HOSPITALS

None.

(There is a temporary military Hospital at Shanacloon House)

(SHANACLOON)

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets..... None

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Adams Repair Garage - no petrol.
Petrol in tires may be had from Mrs D. E. KEANE,
Commercial Hotel, Castle Connell.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis Mrs D. E. KEANE, Commercial Hotel.
One car for hire. In normal times there
would be others.

Motors (Touring)..... see Taxis

Boats (State type) Ordinary row boats
(Mrs George Bourke)
There is ^{public} no bridge across river at Castle Connell and
a ferry service is operated by Mrs George Bourke. At
present a wooden foot bridge is being erected by the
Bicycles military for their own convenience.

BICYCLES..... None for hire.

Caravans Mrs Richard Emigti, Woods End, Castle Connell,
Horses has four horse drawn caravans for hire. Horses
supplied. The caravans are completely fitted & all the
necessaries are supplied with the exception of linen.
The all-in charge for each caravan is £4 (four pounds)
per week. Caravans not hired for less than one week.
HORSES NO horses available for riding.

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location Along river banks. Landowner
Camping is very popular at Castle Connell. There is
no recognised camping site. Country side at large
used & land owners raise no objections.

Local Improvements Committee..... None

Secretary..... None

DATE 12th Sept. 1942

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

HISTORIC SITES

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

Castle Connell was a seat of the O'Briens, Kings of Thomond & the castle is attributed to them. Dermot & Mahon O'Brien certainly resided there & it was there also that Brian's grandson was murdered ^{re} by the Prince of Thomond. (See notes on castles in antiquities section.) Kinross. Brian's palace was only a few miles up the river.

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 Thomfield's House, Linnagry, live the Bourke family direct descendants of the famous Bourkes of Blawilliam. They also claim to be of same family as the famous Edmund Bourke of oratorical fame, a painting of whom hangs in the drawing room at Thomfield's. The grand-father of the present owner, General Sir Richard Bourke, was Governor of New South Wales from 1831 to '37.

at Mount Shannon near Annacotty village lie the remains of the palatial home of the Earls of Clare, one of whom played such an important part in the passing of the Act of Union. Was one of the largest residences in these islands & had 366 windows. Was burned by irregular forces ^{during} civil war period. Even in ruins it is beautiful.

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.

At the northern end of Clain St is the famous 18th century Spa. Was considered (by Sir Charles Cameron) to be the strongest Iron Well in existence in these islands. In very good condition. Covered over by a cut stone shelter, erected by the famous Burkes of Blawilliam, & over the door is the family crest. Surrounded by stone flags. Very little used nowadays. There is a right of way. About half a mile from village (to North) there is a sulphur well in the old Mahon's bog. Unused.

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.

While the demesne of the Earls of Clare at Mount Shannon was most densely wooded, it is a strange fact that crows never built their nests there. About the demesne and in some places just at other side of road, were small clusters of trees which the crows used to such an extent that dozens of nests were on same tree.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Half a mile s.w. of village on road to Limerick is Ruane, where there is a large boulder called "black mach na Peiste", getting its name from a serpent banished by St Patrick. The serpent is supposed to be in a hole in Mackip bog nearby. On the stone itself is a mark resembling a foot print believed to be St Patrick's. Some of the older residents of the district still pay rounds there and at one time it was very generally frequented.

(Signed)

P. J. K. Lynch

Surveyor.

DATE 14 Oct. 1942.