

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Connells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE NONE PARISH Coolcappagh COUNTY Limerick
ENTIRELY RURAL PARISH

TOPOGRAPHY

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

Tourists who appreciate good scenery will appreciate a cycle or motor trip between Newcastlemore & Foynes, via Ardagh & Kilmolan. The road skirts mountain foothills and commands a striking view all the way.

The road, though hilly, has no extreme gradients and is good surfaced. Apple blossoms & whitethorns in the month of May, lends a charm to the Parish which takes some beating. Absence of water is the one scenic feature missing.

Another pleasing view can be got from Coolcappagh School. Pedestrians and hikers will find plenty of scope for their hobby by diverting off the main road through the mountain passes, and viewing the scenery from greater heights such as "Kerrickyle" 779 feet high.

GEOLOGY

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

There are no unusual features. Coolcappagh & Kilmolan Parish has nothing of interest for geologists, Limestone - with some crags - is the only stone found.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

There are no mansions, castles, or Estates, or anything coming ^{under} above headings.
"Cahir noyle House" occupied by the monks is in the Ardagh Parish, and does not come under Coolcappagh Survey.

ANTIQUITIES

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

Lionacullen Castle is a very imposing ~~looking~~ structure located four miles west of Rathkeale, from its low lying situation & undulating surroundings it cannot claim the same view as Cappagh, Shanid & other castles, neither can it boast the same architectural plan. Through its wrymantled walls can be traced a square topped western window with a small chimney towering above. Two square windows, and pointed arch door show out on the Eastern wall. In the North East Angle there is a square higher attachment which shows 4 slitted windows and another door. There is a squinch connecting this attachment to the main building at the N. West side, which has three slitted windows. The height of the Castle would be 75 ft and the whole building is in good condition except where it bulges slightly at the North West corner. A large courtyard surrounded another decaying building to the S. East.

The ground apartment measures 39' x 15' and as it is 25 ft high with corbels, windows, & doors showing higher up it is probable that two apartments ~~divided this apartment~~ 39' x 15' x 12 1/2 high each, once functioned. This room in its present state has an entrance door - with the usual "murdering hole" - a higher up door and six windows. The stairs is intact & very artistic up to the 3rd ^{or 4th} story where another 39' x 20' room with an arched brick chimney & cement floor is located. There are other smaller rooms. Cattle & Pigs are housed in this Castle which is owned by Mr Enright, who welcomes inspection. The owner names M^c Sheehy as the reputed founder. The Teacher claims it as a "Desmond" with a later "Geraldine" ownership. Why it was spared by Sir Hardress Waller in his Castle wrecking campaigns nobody seems to know.

Kilcolman Church & Cemetery

Located near New R. C. Church of Kilcolman, the old church ruins have practically crumbled away leaving only small sections of walls in decay. Must have been a very old church. With no local history to the knowledge of the P.P. Cemetery is small & neglected. No important tombstones.

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

"Ballyegna Castle"
Coolcappagh Parish

(2)

Ballyegna Castle - one mile west of Lionacullen Castle measures 35' x 27' by 30' high (approx) East side has four windows, The north side a door, and four slitted ones, and the south side two. All the windows are double splayed and the doors point arched. Foundations are well "battered" and in good repair and the batter projects above the entrance door. The stairs is on left of entrance porch and the usual "murdering hole" overhead. A door gives access from the porch to the ground apartment which measures 20' x 13', with corbels 10' higher up and a very neat arched roof a further 10' from the corbels - evidently there were two apartments here - The straight stairs is part broken to prevent cattle climbing to the top, this stairs branches into two at second landing - one leads to a small chamber containing a latrine - the other to the castle top. There was probably another story - perhaps two - which have fallen, or were blown away. This castle was better lighted by the double splayed windows than the usual type of in the Desmond series, to which it is supposed to belong. There are log holes inside all doors for fasteners. A very good view can be got from green top of castle. History unknown in the Parish. A short breen leads from the Coolcappagh, Ardagh road to Ballyegna castle.

OLD CHURCHES.

"Kilbreadhern" a mile East of Kilcolman village measures 33' x 16' by 13' high. East window is gone from its foundation, leaving top arch standing. There is the nearby south window and point arched door so characteristic of most old churches. The ruins are wymantled. A wall slab on west gable marks the graves of the M^r. Donnell family, with a mausoleum outside showing where the Murry family are buried in 1801. Two Priests are also buried in cemetery.

The monument to Timothy Madigan of Shanagolden who was shot by Crown Forces in 1921 looks neglected and forgotten.

The only ^{other} monument worth recording is to the memory of the much buried Thomas Mangan who died and was buried in San Francisco - to be exhumed & reburied in Kilcolman, and again exhumed & reburied in Kilbreadhern. I do not think any other man can claim the distinction or honour of being thrice buried. - *Yes Columbus, if he were alive!*

A Hare which makes this graveyard its home is never molested by ^{local} hunters, who will not allow hounds within miles of the cemetery, lest they may disturb the Hare's resting place.

Tinkers, ignorant of the Hare's privilege once disturbed it and have reasons to keep away in future. (They were mobbed.) The cemetery & church are neglected, as are nearly all cemeteries in Co. Limerick.

"Blonagh" cemetery near Feens has no old church now standing. The cemetery is not in very bad repair no important monuments

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Cornells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE NONE PARISH Boocappagh 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 Deel Nearest point to town (distance) Rathkeale - 4 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Brown Trout, White & Sea Trout, Salmon.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon 10 lbs Sea trout 1 lb Brown trout $\frac{3}{4}$ lb

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon March, April, May Sea trout May, June, July Brown trout Feb. to October - May best month

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon "Jack Scott", "Thunder & Lightning", "Lemon Grey", "Black Doctor", "Silver Grey, Olive Grouse & ARTIFICIAL EELINGS
 Sea trout Fancy Gaudy Flies
 Brown trout "Olive Grouse", "Brown & Purple Rail", "Olive Rail & April & Dun", "Silver & Green Rail &c

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

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors :

The Askeaton & Rathkeale Anglers Association will supply all information.

Anglers should be advised to contact the Secretary before fishing the Deel.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

None required

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Rathkeale

Local Angling Club The Askeaton Anglers Association Membership Fee 5/-

Secretary (and Address) Mr. Purcell, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

None.

Kinds of fish to be caught :

None.

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

None.

Bait available locally ? None. Fishing tackle ? None.

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn. None.

GOLFING

Name of Club None. No. of holes None.

Situation and brief description of course :

None.

Name of Professional None.

Is there a clubhouse on course ? None. Licensed ?

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day None. Per week

RACING

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

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

Under which rules?..... *None*

Situation of course..... *None*

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *The Limerick Hounds*

Harriers *The Stonehall Harriers*

Beagles *—*

COURSING

Name of Club..... *None* Meeting held annually?.....

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company..... *None*

Races on (nights)..... *None*

SHOOTING

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

The is no shooting worth mentioning in Coolcappagh Parish, or "Kilcolman"

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

No reserves available.

Shooting Club..... *None* Secy..... *—*

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... *None* Competitions held?..... *None*

ROWING AND SAILING

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

None.

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 *Is played in Parish - no regular field - or Team.*
 Hurling *None.*
 Handball *sometimes played* Handball alley? *Spinnacullen Castle.*
 Soccer *None.*
 Rugby *None.*
 Cricket *None.*
 Hockey *None.*
 Bowls *None.*
 Bowling (on public roads) *None.*
 Lawn Tennis *None.* Kinds of courts *None.*
 Croquet *None.*
 Billiards *None.*
 Badminton *None.*
 Table Tennis *None.*
 Bridge Club *None.*
 Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing) *None.*

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club *None.* Events held under rules of *None.*
 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 Pilgrimage to St Promoters *No Promoters.*
Hilbolman's Holy well on 15th August.
This Pilgrimage is dying out.
A Holywell named "St. Kieran's" is
located near "Reens" - on Rathkeale
Newcastlewest Road. Pilgrimage
has died out.

DATE *May 30th 1944* (Signed) *Ralph Lucas*
 Surveyor.

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

BARONY OF Cornells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE NONE PARISH Coolcappagh COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. RURAL PARISH Population COOLCAPPAGH PARISH 534
KILCOLMAN 966
TOTAL 1500

Coolcappagh & Kilcolman Parish is separated on the north from Cappagh Parish by the Deel River. It is located nearly midway between Rathkeale & Ardagh. The north side of Parish is uninteresting. The South & West offer some fine views. From the 538 ft "Knockboheen Hill" at Kilcolman one of the best views can be got. The Panorama of Limerick, Clare, Kerry, Galway & Tipperary can be seen. Old "Shanah's" impregnable castle, with the many other less formidable obstacles to Hardress Waller's night, strew the plain, with the outline towns & whitewashed villages of Clare & Limerick. The mighty aquatic Lynis slide to anchor in the nearby Poynes Harbour, and the sister aerodrome of Rineanna speeds away to other lands.

Is there a Town Hall? NONE Location NONE - its passengers

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description :

NONE.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage :

Scattered "Public, Private Pumps", and "wells" supply the water needs. No necessity for a sewerage system in above rural Parish.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Ardagh or Rathkeale Distance 4 Miles Bus? NONE

Public lighting by—Electricity? Gas?

DANCING

Dance hall MEASURES - 90^{ft} x 24^{ft} x 12^{ft} high Proprietor Mr. M. Reidy
SHANAGOLDEN
Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas NONE Pictures shown NONE
(nights)

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

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries..... *N O N E.*

Private Lending Libraries..... *N O N E.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *coolcappagh R. C.*..... Services (Sundays)..... *9. 15 A.M.*

Kilcolman R. C...... *8. 30 & 10. 30 A.M.*

NO CHURCH OF IRELAND

R. A.

C O N G R E G A T I O N

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Letter Box only at coolcappagh,*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *M.O. & ^{OFFICE} Post at Kilcolman, No telephons or Telegraph.*

BANKING

Banks..... *N O N E.*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers..... *N O N E.*

Photographic Stores..... *N O N E.*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *N O N E.*..... Location..... *—*

Public Baths?..... *N O N E.*..... 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.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

R. C. Church very neat Gothic, cruciform, ^{ONE} ~~two~~ Galleries, Galleries, Kilcolman.

^{cool} R. C. Church - Cappagh ^{cruciform} neat ~~single ended~~, Gothic, Gallery, fine altar, built 1877.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

"Coolcappagh" N. S. very neat two Teacher School.
"Kilcolman" N. S. New two Teacher School.
"Monetmohill" N. S. a well kept 2 Teacher School.
The above three schools are staffed with Ladies.

HOSPITALS

Limerick 22 Miles

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets..... *NONE.*
.....
Weekly market day..... *NONE.* Half-holiday..... *NONE.*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

NONE.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *NONE.*

Motors (Touring)..... *NONE.*

Boats (State type)..... *NONE.*

Bicycles..... *NONE.*

Caravans *NONE.*

Horses..... *NONE.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *Free all over the* Landowner.....
Garish

Local Improvements Committee..... *NONE.*

Secretary *NONE.*

DATE *May 30th 1944.*

(Signed) *Ralph Lucas.*

Surveyor.

HISTORIC SITES

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

Nothing coming under above headings.

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.

Nothing to report.

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.

No Spas or Mineral Springs.

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.

Nothing coming under above headings.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

"Saint Kieran's" Holy well near "Feenó" (Rathkeale Newcastle Road) was a famous Pilgrimage & sports centre up to recent years. On the 9th of every September the youth and bloom, the cranks and invalids, the believers and pagans assembled there to sport, flirt, pray, and drink, — not always — the water. This Pilgrimage is now discontinued, not even a sacred emblem decorates the spot, and the sanctified well occasionally runs dry.

"St Colman's" Holy well, near Kilderman village, is no longer used as a Vattern on 15th August.

The probable explanation why above Holy wells ceased to be Pilgrimized is to be found in the lack of cures claimed, with a general ^{waning} loss of Faith in Holy wells, not confined to Co. Limerick.

(Signed)

Ralph Lucas.

Surveyor.

DATE May 30th 1944.