

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Connell's Lower  
CROAGH & CROAGH &  
TOWN OR VILLAGE KILFENNY PARISH KILFENNY COUNTY Limerick

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The above Parish has no outstanding scenic views, or attractions of any description. It is as flat as a billiard table in all parts (except hill 243<sup>rd</sup>) and has very good meadow and good tillage land. There are no woods, rivers, or lakes, and few stone walls. Hawthorn hedges form all the fences, and their bloom looks very picturesque in the month of May only. From the 243<sup>rd</sup> hill over-looking Kilmenny old castle, a good view can be obtained. Cyclists or hikers will find very little to interest them in their passage through, and there is no Hotel or Guest house to cater for their wants.

### GEOLOGY

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

There are no unusual geological features

### 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 imposing mansions, castles, or estates.

## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, 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.

Kilfinny Castle located nearly midway between the towns of Rathkeale and Broom is in a decayed condition, and very ruinantled. It contained four stories, of which the ground apartments - neatly arched - alone remain intact. A 48 yards courtyard, containing angle tower with pointed windows & loopholes, still shows at the N. East corner of this courtyard. The Keep (or bastle) measures 80' x 28' approx. The larger bottom apartment measures 36 x 9 by 12' high, with a smaller apartment 24' x 7'. On the right of the latter room, 10 steps of the 2' staircase leads upwards to other rooms in the wrecked castle, the usual doorway (broken) is nearby with no trace of the "murdering hole". There is an eastern Gable standing some 30ft away which evidently was an annexe or attachment, near the interior foundation of this annexe is a 70' deep circular well which still supplies water to its present owner (Mr Fitzgerald) as it did to the its ancient owners, another <sup>SIMILAR</sup> circular well is located in the courtyard. Three square windows show through ivy on western side of castle. The ruins has a dual ownership - Mr Kelly utilizes the intact bottom rooms for storage of farm implements & bars.

Mr Fitzgerald the courtyard for his hay barn & water supply etc.

### HISTORY

The castle is reputed to have been built by M<sup>c</sup> Henry, was later owned by the Knights of Glin, and occupied by Lady Dowdall in 1642. The latter lady made the castle historical by her defensive and offensive abilities, when the Confederation troops attacked it with Guns and drums, the Lady's 50 foot and 30 horsed defenders annihilated them, and their leader (Stephenson) dead body was carried away to Askeaton Abbey where it awaits the Resurrection under the Stephenson Slab. The bullet that killed him was fired by Lady Dowdall. She then burned, plundered and hanged her enemies, and relieved the other besieged castles. Her successes and excesses were however only temporary, as a larger army - with 892<sup>lb</sup> guns mounted on hollow tree trunks (called Sows) and drawn by 25 yoke of oxen - besieged her again, and a few Salvoes with 32<sup>lb</sup> cannon balls brought the famed castle, and the famous lady to surrender and endure captivity in Kinsale where she wrote her Diary - now in Trinity College, Dublin.

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

NOTE SCRAPS OF ABOVE HISTORY WERE COLLECTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY RITA HARTIGAN IN "LIMERICK LEADER" OF DEC 1932. ALSO FROM THE LOCAL PRIESTS & HISTORIANS. WORDING IS MY OWN, AND THE INFORMATION ACCURATE

## Ballinakill Old Church

(2)

Located one mile East of Kilsenny. Both Church and Cemetery are in very bad repair. There are two apartments in this church. The west one measures 14'5" x 14' by 12' high. The usual south door gives entrance to the west room, the jamb and arch of this door are gone, it has one slitted window. The East room (or chapel) shows a neatly arched East window, with the usual nearby slitted one. This chapel measures 15' x 12' or two feet narrower than west apartment. It contains an ornamental wall slab - partly broken - to the memory of - Pigott 1683. erected 1718. The weed and briars overgrown

Cemetery contains a mausoleum to the Massy family of Glenwilliam Castle, this mausoleum is in keeping with the rest of the cemetery which is impossible to walk in or describe. There are some Yew trees which are a contrast to the briars and scrub.

### NOTE

I trust it is not out of place to remark that the old Churches & Cemeteries of Co. Limerick - so far surveyed - are in a hopeless state of disrepair. The Survey of Clare last Year revealed the same conditions, and when on Your instructions I interviewed the late Co. Surveyor (Mr. Dowling) I brought this matter - along with suggested improvement of some roads - <sup>to his notice</sup> he assured me of his support and sympathy. Later the Co. Managers for Clare, approved and gave practical effect to the representation, by employing the road works throughout the county in the improvement of Cemeteries. To day the old Churches & graveyards of Clare are a monument to the memory of the late Mr. Dowling, and a credit to the county.

R. Lucas. 3/6/44

Broagh Abbey church

(3)

"Broagh Abbey" is located in Broagh village, on the main Limerick Rathkeale Road (three miles from the latter town) Its present ruins consist of two apartments. The west measures 40' x 23' It has two slitted splayed windows on south wall, with small south west corner door. A circular arched door leads gives entrance to the East room - or chapel - The latter has the same measurements and the same height of 14 feet. It has a wide brick arched (MODERN) east window, with a nearby two light southern one (ANCIENT) and a neat pointed wall niche, the base of which is saucer shaped like a holy water font. A central circular arched 5' x 2 1/2' door leads out to the graveyard. There are two circular brick arched gaps on the north and south sides where the walls of the two apartments meet, and the foundation of north wall is undermined and broken. In the south apartment there are two slabs, one reads Fr - O'Connor 1740, the other is undecipherable. A huge gap is showing through the wy of the <sup>WEST</sup> south gable. There are hood mouldings to tops of exterior door & window of nave (w chapel) The outlines foundations of other buildings are impossible to trace because of the deplorable condition of the surroundings. Near the exterior N. west corner of the church is a mausoleum with open door showing the entire contents of the tomb. On a shelf facing the door a complete human skeleton is lying on its back, with skulls, bones, and fragments of coffins scattered about in disorder. Morbid minded tourists should be quite satisfied at the display This tomb provides, and medical students find ample material for their professional study. The local history of the abbey is obscure. The P.P. - Fr Murphy - says the monks educated exclusively for the church and that the ordinations took place at Adore, "Rathkeale Abbey" was a brother-house but Broagh was the Trebendary - w lead house. 100 monks taught there. A native (old) historian, Costello says mass was celebrated there up to 100 years ago, and the brick arches to some of the windows & doors would support that theory

(4) "Amaghán Castle" Jas. I said to have slept here  
(Lewis p. 434) n. 56.

The above castle is located  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles East of Rathkeale. It has five slitted windows in the North, and five similar, and a square one in the East, with two slitted ones in the west. The usual North entrance has a pointed arch and shows no "murdering hole" on the inside. The upper part of stairs is intact and in good condition to the top, bottom steps are broken away to prevent cattle & pigs (which are housed in bottom apartment) from climbing to the other parts of the castle. The ground chamber measures  $18' \times 12'$ , Second story is a neatly arched white washed room of similar dimensions, with a chimney and broken mantelpiece. There is a small room with the usual latrine opening to East of the second apartment. The third story - present top of castle - measures  $18' \times 12'$ . The neatly arched top of staircase projects six feet above the top of the castle top, so there was one or two more stories when the castle was complete. Mr Enright owns the castle, which is surrounded on all sides by the premises and walls of Mr Sparling. The history of Amaghán Castle is not known by local historians. From the green castle top a good view can be got of the many other old castles in the adjoining parishes such as "Blonshire" "Garranboy" "Bappagh" "Dunnaman" "Kilfinny" - and others more distant.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Cornells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE CROAGH & KILFINNY. PARISH CROAGH & KILFINNY. 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 NONE RIVER OR LAKE Nearest point to town (distance) NONE

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD :

NONE

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon — Sea trout — Brown trout —

#### BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon — Sea trout — Brown trout —

#### SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon —

Sea trout —

Brown trout —

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

NONE.

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

NONE.

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

NONE.

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

NONE.

Local Angling Club NONE Membership Fee NONE.

Secretary (and Address) NONE

**SEA ANGLING**

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

*N O N E.*

Kinds of fish to be caught :

*N O N E.*

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

*N O N E.*

Bait available locally ? *N O N E.* Fishing tackle ? *N O N E.*

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn. *N O N E.*

**GOLFING**

Name of Club *N O N E.* No. of holes *N O N E.*

Situation and brief description of course :

*N O N E.*

Name of Professional *N O N E*

Is there a clubhouse on course ? *N O N E* Licensed ? *N O N E*

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day *N O N E* Per week *N O N E*

# ACCOMMODATION

PARISH *Brough & Killybegs*

BARONY *Cornello Lower*

COUNTY *Limerick*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Brough & Killybegs*

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<i>NONE.</i>						<i>There is no Hotel, Guest, or Boarding house Restaurant, or Cafe. in above Parish.</i>	<i>NONE.</i>
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<i>NONE.</i>							

DATE *June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1944.*

(Signed) *Ralph Lucas*  
Surveyor.



**RACING**

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year..... *N O N E.*

Under which rules?..... *N O N E.*

Situation of course..... *N O N E.*

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *The Limerick Hounds.*

Harriers *The Stonehall Harriers.*

Beagles *None.*

**COURSING**

Name of Club..... *N O N E* Meeting held annually? *N O N E.*

**GREYHOUND RACING**

Name of Company..... *N O N E.*

Races on (nights)..... *N O N E.*

**SHOOTING**

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

*There is very poor rough shooting, with a mere sprinkling of woodcock & Rabbits, Pheasants are fairly plentiful which is due to difficulty in getting cartridges. I was informed if the latter were available the Pheasants would vanish. This parish could not be recommended for the Angler or Fowler.*

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

*N O N E.*

Shooting Club..... *N O N E.* Secy..... *N O N E.*

**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

Name of Club..... *N O N E.* Competitions held? *N O N E.*

**ROWING AND SAILING**

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

*N O N E.*

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

Hurling..... *YES — NO REGULAR HURLING FIELD.*.....

Handball..... *N O N E.*..... Handball alley?..... *N O N E.*.....

Soccer..... *N O N E.*.....

Rugby..... *N O N E.*.....

Cricket..... *N O N E.*.....

Hockey..... *N O N E.*.....

Bowls..... *N O N E.*.....

Bowling (on public roads)..... *N O N E.*.....

Lawn Tennis..... *N O N E.*..... Kinds of courts..... *N O N E.*.....

Croquet..... *N O N E.*.....

Billiards..... *N O N E.*.....

Badminton..... *N O N E*.....

Table Tennis..... *N O N E*.....

Bridge Club..... *N O N E*.....

Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing).....  
..... *N O N E.*.....  
.....

**ATHLETICS AND CYCLING**

Name of Club..... *N O N E.*..... Events held under rules of..... *N O N E.*.....

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.

..... *N O N E.*..... Promoters..... *N O N E.*.....

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DATE..... *June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1944*..... (Signed)..... *Ralph Lucas*.....  
..... Surveyor.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Bonnello Lower  
 CROAGH & KILFINNY  
 TOWN OR VILLAGE KILFINNY PARISH Croagh COUNTY Limerick  
 Population CROAGH - 34  
KILFINNY - 48  
TOTAL PARISH 950

PARISH POPULATION	
CROAGH	34
KILFINNY	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>950</b>

Location and brief description.

Croagh & Kilfinny Parish is located 3 MILES & 5 MILES to East of Rathkeale.  
The villages named after their respective half Parishes scarcely deserve the title of village. This is really one of the flattest Parishes in the noted Limerick plain, one hill alone 243 feet high near Kilfinny village breaks the monotony of the contours. The Hawthorn & apple blossoms, mingling with the song of the famed Limerick skylark, (in May) is a blend which every tourist will appreciate, even though he may not enjoy the flat scenery and good roads.

Is there a Town Hall? NONE Location NONE

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

NONE

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

The water-got through scattered Pumps & Springs-is adequate & good  
All the water comes through limestone crevices.  
There is no sewerage system, except a few village dry closets & open fields

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Rathkeale Distance 5 MILES - KILFINNY Bus? YES? Through CROAGH.  
3 MILES - CROAGH  
 Public lighting by—Electricity? NONE Gas? NONE

### DANCING

Dance hall NONE Proprietor NONE

### CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas NONE Pictures shown NONE  
 (nights)

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

**LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries..... *There is a Carnegie Free Library in Brough.*

Private Lending Libraries..... *NONE.*

**CHURCHES AND SERVICES**

Church *R. C. Brough.*..... Services (Sundays) *9. & 11.30 A.M.*

*R. C. Kilfinny.*..... *10. A.M.*

*NO CHURCH OF IRELAND.*

**POSTAL FACILITIES**

Location of Post Office..... *In Brough & Kilfinny Villages*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)..... *ONLY LETTER OFFICES - NO TELEPHONE or TELEGRAPH.*

**BANKING**

Banks..... *NONE.*

**SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES**

Sports Dealers..... *NONE.*

Photographic Stores..... *NONE.*

**SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS**

Swimming Pool?..... *NONE.*..... Location..... *NONE.*

Public Baths?..... *NONE.*..... Location..... *NONE.*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs ..... N O N E.

Cultural Societies ..... N O N E.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries ..... The only Industry is the Co-operative Creamery  
in Kilsfinny.

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

..... N O N E.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

..... N O N E.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

R. C. Church. Croagh. Small, fairly neat, Gothic,  
Gallery covers nearly half of nave, concrete floor,  
neat altar, slab in church to Fr P. Carroll, P.P. 1887.  
R. C. Church Kilsfinny, very dark ancient looking, Gothic, Gallery,  
flagged floor, Fair altar, Nave only.  
Slab in church to Fr T. Corkery, P.P. 1891.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

"National School" Croagh, Three Teachers, fair  
condition, library also used as school.  
National School" Kilsfinny Fair condition, Two  
Teachers

HOSPITALS

..... ~~Nearest~~ Limerick 15 Miles From Croagh.  
Broom 6 " from Kilsfinny

**LIBRARIES**

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Private Lending Libraries..... *NONE.*

**CHURCHES AND SERVICES**

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*R. C. Kilfening.*..... *10. A.M.*

*NO CHURCH OF IRELAND.*

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Location of Post Office..... *In Brough & Kilfening Villages*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)..... *ONLY LETTER OFFICES - NO TELEPHONE or TELEGRAPH.*

**BANKING**

Banks..... *NONE.*

**SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES**

Sports Dealers..... *NONE.*

Photographic Stores..... *NONE.*

**SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS**

Swimming Pool?..... *NONE.* Location..... *NONE.*

Public Baths?..... *NONE.* Location..... *NONE.*

**FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY**

Monthly fairs and markets..... *N O N E.*

Weekly market day..... *N O N E.* Half-holiday..... *N O N E.*

**GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS**

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

**CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :**

Taxis ..... *N O N E.*

Motors (Touring)..... *N O N E.*

Boats (State type)..... *N O N E.*

Bicycles ..... *N O N E.*

Caravans ..... *N O N E.*

Horses..... *N O N E.*

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *NO OBJECTION TO* Landowner..... *N O N E*  
*FREE CAMPING IN*  
*ANY PART OF PARISH*

Local Improvements Committee..... *Parish Council*

Secretary ..... *Mr Kelly. N.T.*

DATE..... *June 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

There are no Royal Seats. The reputed battles for Killynny  
Castle are covered under the heading "Antiquaries".

## 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.

None of above worth relating. I failed to  
locate the birthplace or burial ground,  
of any famous Irishmen.

## 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.

N O N E.



## 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.

On hill (243<sup>ft</sup>) overlooking Kelfenny Castle there are two circular towers within 200 yards of each other and the same distance from the ancient stronghold of the famous or infamous Lady Dowdall.

Local historians differ regarding the purpose they served, some say they were "watch towers" or "look outs" for the old castle's garrison other claim they were wind mills the latter is the more popular description.

The Eastern tower is torn and battered, some say from cannon balls fired from the overlooking summit of Knockfeevina (or Fairy Hill 948' high) The westerly one was split asunder in recent years by lightning, but is still in fair condition. The above towers are located on the land of Mr Kelly — 6 miles from Broom slightly off the main Broom, Rathkeale, Road.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

There is no trace of any old customs in above Parish, The Lisses, Cahers, Forts, or other place names connected with the Fairies are also absent

DATE June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1944.

(Signed)

Ralph Lucas  
Surveyor.