

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF B. lanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE PARISH Donaghmore COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

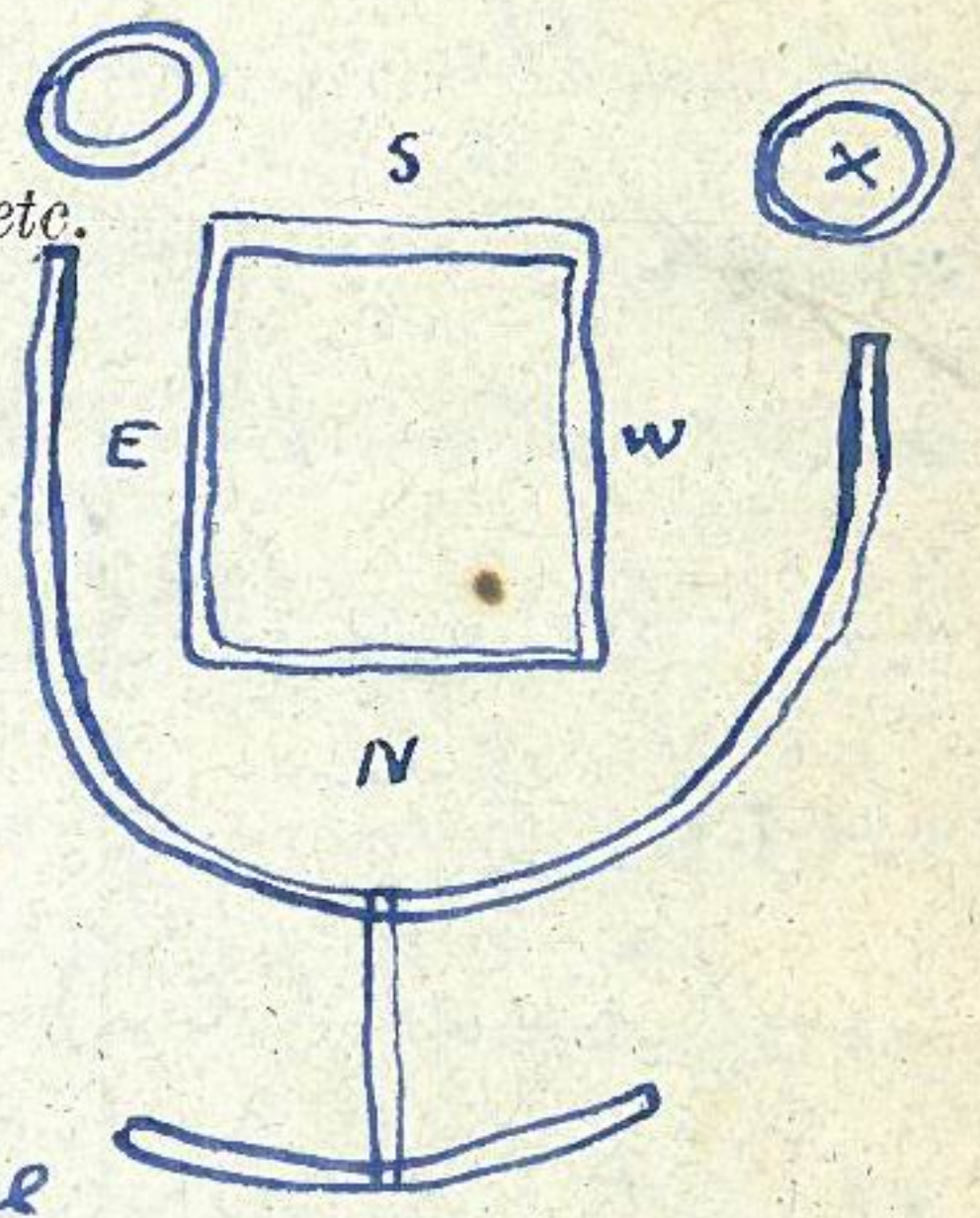
Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

From Knocka Hill at the back of Mr. Power's house, is a splendid view of Limerick city & country about it, with the river Shannon, dividing it from Clare. To the east & south is an unobstructed view of the great plain of the "Golden Vale" stretching to the foot of the Galtee mountains. The plain is well wooded & studded with ruins of old castles, dating from time of the Norman invasion.

GEOLOGY

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

On the summit of Knocka Hill, are the remains of numerous forts, round & rectangular. Herewith, rough sketch of the foundations. In small ringed fort marked x, bones & skulls were dug up about a year ago. The land owner is Mr. Patrick Power. Besides the trenches shown, there are several others, about the hill.



MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

"Brooklands" Ballyleedy was once the property of the Viscounts Lyort (Vickers) but is presently the residence of Mrs. H. Huslow Farmer. A handsome house of early 19th century. Nearby is Bickadoon House, property of Mr. Wm Leahy, (Colt) & formerly residence of the Urquhart Hunts. A Georgian type mansion. At Friarstown is situated the very handsome residence of Major G. Lawrence-Hastings, formerly the property of Mrs. Annie Dunscombe-Russell-Hunt. (deceased) Here is housed a very fine herd of pedigree Short-horns. Baronial type of house of the late 18th century.

Ballynacarde House, a magnificent early 19th century mansion is presently occupied by the defence forces. Formerly the seat of the broken family. The owner is Mrs. J. O'Neill, William St. Limerick. The estate which was one of the most beautiful & fertile in Ireland was taken over & divided by J. L. C. some years ago. (Very little of its former beauty now remains). From a member of this family originated the saying "I doubt it says broken" (see article on Ballybricken parish.) In the house are most beautiful fireplaces of marble; stairway of cut stone, projecting from walls; carved mahogany doors, & panelling; wonderfully ornamented ceilings & friezes. In the grounds is some fine statuary of stone & marble. The house is built of cut limestone.

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.

Friarstown Abbey. The first mention of this Abbey was in 1586, when the "House of St Francis de Ballynabrader" was held by Gerard Baluff, (son of Philip) a rebel. His occupation of the Abbey lasted until 1590. It is believed the Abbey was founded in 1410. The place is in a most excellent state of preservation, 81 feet long by 19 feet wide. An east window has two round headed lights and a flat splay. In south wall are a similar one light window & a two light window, with the mullion gone. In the west end is a window with two bluntly pointed lights and a door underneath. A door (very narrow) in the north side has a round head of ope stone. There is no light or window on this north side. To the south is a projecting wing, 29 feet by 17 feet with two fireplaces & chimneys, two east windows (one rectangular), and a door. Early in the last century, Mr Hunt, owner of the place, removed a slab in floor of abbey and found a large empty earthen crock in a hollow beneath it. The Abbey was renovated by the late Mrs Annie Dunscombe Russell Hunt, in memory of her husband who is buried there. The following is the inscription on his tombstone.

"John Thomas Urquhart Hunt, born 10th July, 1829, died 29th March, 1898.

Remember man as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so you will be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

The present owner of the property about the Abbey, is Major G. Lawrence-Hastings, who bought the estate from the Hunts.

Three hundred yards to the west of Abbey is a "liagan" stone, 6 feet high, by six wide & 15 inches thick. Close by the "liagan" stone are four circular pits or four headed pads. To the west of the road is a fifth fort. Only foundations remain.

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

TOWN or
VILLAGEPARISH DONAGHMORECOUNTY LIMERICKTOPOGRAPHY.

From Knockea Hill at the back of Mr. Power's house, is a splendid view of Limerick City and country about it, with the river Shannon dividing it from Clare. To the E. and S. is an unobstructed view of the great plain of the "Golden Vale" stretching to the foot of the Galtee Mountains. The plain is well wooded and studded with ruins of old Castles, dating from time of the Norman invasion.

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GLENVIEW HOUSE. Ballyneety is the seat of the Russell family, built about 70 years ago. It is a very handsome mansion of classical designs and houses a fine collection of family portraits and possessions, and splendid pieces of furniture. The gardens are very lovely but are not open to the public. In a greenhouse are orange and lemon trees, presently laden with perfect fruits. There also, is a Wistaira tree, believed to be the most perfect specimen in these Islands. In the grounds are the ruins of the original mansion, built in Elizabethan times, with pigeon house attached.

None of the foregoing mansions house any works of art or libraries.

ROXBOROUGH HOUSE the seat of late Sir Eustace Vane Becher, was burned by irregular forces during civil war period and in it were destroyed, many works of Art. House now derelict but the grounds are beautifully wooded. Owned by Mr. John Kirby. It was a large 18th century (late) mansion.

SURVEY/

BARONY OF CLANWILLIAM.

TOWN or
VILLAGE

PARISH DONAGHMORE

COUNTY LIMERICK

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MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES.

CAHERNORRY. The first mention of this appears in Prime John's Charter. (1207 approx.). Early in 14th century it passed to Bagot under charter of Richard, father of Je le Moyne of Ballynagarde. In the 17th century it passed to H. Holcroft, being estate of late George Burke. After him came John Burke who appears to have been last occupant. Only site of castle now remains.

BALLYNEETY (or WHITESTOWN)

The first mention of this was early in 17th century when castle was in possession of Edm. Comyn. Towards end of that century it passed with lands to Duke of York, who granted them to Alderman Robert Twigg. It is believed the Whites, who gave place its name came there from England early in 15th century and built castle there. Only site now remains at Luddenbeg.

This is not the Ballyneety which figured in Sarsfield's Campaign Sarsfield's Ballyneety is in the Barony of Coonagh near Pallasgrean.

RATHURD CASTLE.

The ancient "Rathsuird" was a parish from 1253 - 1418. About the end of 16th century, J. Browne was in possession of Castle, well repaired, with an iron door, balne, pigeon house and other buildings. After, came Robert Austey, who in a short time was followed by Stritch, Burke and Field in quick succession. Towards end of 17th century castle and lands were jointly held by James Burke and Barth. Stacpoll. From then, it was granted to Capt. J. Friend, (see Caherconlish survey. Friend or friend family were associates of King William) who divided the spoils with a Capt Winckworth. Probably about time of seige of Limerick. The Castle is an excellent preservation, adjoining the house of Mr. Denis Ryan. It is a round building, square inside, of three stones, 1st being vaulted. About 50' high, walls 13' thick at greatest mass. Has circular stone stairway. Narrow slit windows. On first floor, passage way about 2' wide runs through centre of wall for about half circumference of Castle, having narrow slits and peep holes. The main doorway was in the east side and on the west another door, half way between ground and first storeys, to which stone steps gave access. Cattle are housed in ground storey of castle. About 40 yards to N.W. is a levelled rath.

DROMBANNY (I) First mentioned about end of 16th century when castle and lands were in possession of Donnell Mc Canna. These he entailed on his sons. Records show that in 1621 H. Holcroft was granted the ruined Castle of Drombanny, late estate of Edm. McCanny, yet about 1630 approx. A livery on Drombanny was granted to Edm. McCanny on the death of his father Donough. After that it passed to Piers Creagh, son of Andrew, from whom it was granted to Duke of York. Property of Mr. Franklyn.

DROMBANNY (II) Stood in a large irregular double earthwork. No trace of Castle now. (See article on Cahervalley Castle)

LICKADOON. About 1336 Leakdon Vill and fossa (entrenched earth fort or note and may be the dun which gives the place its name.) was held by Bishop Mam. de Rupefort. After him came W. de Birmingham and about 1580 it passed to W. Duff Hurley, who was pardoned. Here, Dermot O'Hurley. Titular Arch-Bishop of Cashel, was born. He was executed in Dublin about 1585. About 1600 it was garrisoned by Carew. Next it passed to the Roche family and from them to Duke of York. At beginning of 18th century it was sold to Bishop Smith of Limerick. The town was 70' high, walls 8' thick. Spiral stairs was in eastern section, with usual large gables and slit windows. Only north wall now remains. Property of Mr. Noonan.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES. (Contd)

CAHERVALLEY OR RAHEEN. Early in 14th century it was known as Rathendessy when it was in possession of Boyle. From him it passed to O'Kahisse, when it was known as "Rahin". About 1586 Bradagh O'Kahisse held it, from him it passed to W. Roche about 1620. About 1655 Castle was held by Don Roche (son of Jordan) who was Major of Limerick 1691 when seige of city took place. King James II created Don Roche, Viscount of Cahervalla and restored to him the family estates. From him descended Sir Boyle Roche of oratorical fame. Foundations of Castle in fort behind Churchyard of Raheen, about 30' square. In this fort is a very hollow sound if you strike or stamp ground with your foot. It is believed there is an underground passage from this fort to Friarstown Abbey, about half-mile to the west. This old Castle was also known as Dronbanny in the very early times

BALLINAGARDE. There once stood^a Castle on the site presently occupied by Ballinagarde House. It was Burke property and dated from early 14th century. It continued in the Burke family until about 1650 when it passed to a Captain Faithful Chapman. In 1680 it was a peel tower four storeys high. There is a story that a daughter of one of the Burkes, sprang from a window 16 yards high to escape a forced marriage. She afterwards married and lived very happily with the man she so avoided. In 1681, it passed to John Croker, in whose family it continued until 1935, when Courtney Croker, the last of the line died, and estate was divided by Irish Land Commission. It is said Satan once visited the house in company with a deceased member of the family. The actual owner of the house and estate never lived in it, but without any ill effects, it could be let to another member of family or person. The Crokers had another in Co. Clare, where the owner of Ballynagarde always lived.

WILLIAMSTOWN. At the moment I am unable to deal completely with this grand old Castle as a valuable source of exact information is denied me for two weeks. I shall forward the finished article as soon as completed and you can connect with this file.

ANTIQUITIES.

FRIARSTOWN ABBEY. The first mention of this Abbey was in 1586, when the "House of St. Francisce de Ballynabraher" was held by Gerat Baluff, (son of Philip) a rebel. His occupation of the Abbey lasted until 1590. It is believed the Abbey was founded in 1410. The place is in a most excellent state of preservation, 81' long.x 19' wide. An east window has two round headed lights and a flat splay. In south wall are a similar one-light window a two-light window, with the mullion gone. In the west end is a window with two bluntly pointed lights and a door underneath. A door (very narrow) in the north side has a round head of one stone. There is no light or window on this north side. To the south is a projecting wing., 29' x 17' with two fireplaces and chimneys, two east windows (one rectangular) and a door. Early in the last century, Mr Hunt, owner of the place, removed a slab in floor of Abbey and found a large empty earthen crock in a hollow beneath it. The Abbey was renovated by the late Mrs. Annie Dunscombe Russell Hunt, in memory of her husband who is buried there. The following is the inscription on his tombstone:-

"John Thomas Urguhart Hunt, born 10th July, 1829, Died 29th March, 1898."

"Remember man as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so you will be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

The present owner of the property about the Abbey, is Major G. Lawrence-Hastings, who bought the estate from the Hunts. Three hundred yards to the west of Abbey is a "Liagain" stone 6' high, by six wide and 15" thick. Close by the "Liagain" stone are four circular forts and four hundred yards to the west of the road is a fifth fort. Only foundations remain.

Whilst it is known that there was a Church in Rathurd, there is now no trace of it. It was an ancient parish, merged into that of St. Nicholas. The King of Cashel claimed this Church and a fort near it, about the year 900. Rathardasuid (Book of Rights). Rathsyward and Carnarthy (Cahernorry) Churches were restored to the Bishop of Limerick about 1253, by Matchus, Prior of Athassell. The last mention of the Church was in 1657 approx.

CAHERNORRY (EARLY) CHURCH. The first mention of this Church was in the Charter of King John in 1210. It was restored to the Bishop of Limerick by Prior of Athassell in 1253. approx. It was dedicated to St. Nicholas. A portion of belfry about 12' high remains. The ruins of the I.C. Church nearby date from 1810 (see photograph) In the burial ground about it are the Vaults of the Howleys, Russells, Verekers (Viscounts Gort) and Shines. The Howley monument is a wonderful piece of workmanship. Nearby is a Well called "Tober Senan"

CAHERVALLY (RAHEEN) CHURCH. The present ruins in the burial ground of Raheen date from 1200 approx. and replaced an earlier foundation. In 1260 John Pincerna granted the Churches of SS. Matthew and Dronchyn to augment the prebend of Thomas de Kerdiff. Cahervalla (as it was then) was dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle. Ruins measure 60'x21'. Three sections of south wall remain.

LICKADOON CHURCH Only foundation (site) remains, close to the ruins of Lickadoon Castle.

DONAGHMORE CHURCH. The old Church of Donaghmore near Limerick City belongs to the early days of christianity and was probably founded by St. Patrick himself. A well dedicated to the Saint is nearby. (I shall be unable to complete this particular article for two weeks but I shall then forward full details when you can connect with this file.)

FORTS ETC.

On the lands of Mr. Leahy at Lickadoon is an unusual rectangular fort with a double earthwork, about 100x60 yards and at places 15' high.

ANTIQUITIES. (Contd)

FORTS ETC (Contd) There is another irregular fort near Donaghmore Church on Mr. Dugan's land. There are most unusual forts, trenches and excavations on Knockea Hill already described under Geology section. These are on the lands of Mr. Pk. Power. There are two forts on the land of Mr. Joseph Moloney, Drombanna and two on the lands of Mr. Keane, near Knockea R.C. Church. There are five circular forts on the lands of Friarstown already mentioned in Antiquities section. Near Raheen Churchyard is another fort which utilises a craggy ridge to form its outer ring. (see description of Cahervally or Raheen Castle). In this fort is a hollow sound, indicative of underground chambers or passages. There are numerous others unworthy of mention. In all there are over 2,000 forts in County Limerick.

On the lands of Mr. Edmond Kirby at Packroe, Friarstown is a fort, in which gold was turned up about fifty years ago, by a Mr. O'Connell, who then owned the place.

HISTORIC SITES.

The remains of the forts on Knockea Hill date from the time of St. Patrick (Circa 440) and on the hill is a stone on which the Saint is supposed to have knelt. It bears marks resembling those which would be made on a soft substance by a kneeling person. It is believed that a big battle took place there in early times, judging by the fortifications on the Hill and the preserve of large numbers of bones about the place (see Geology section). In early times place was known as Dun mOarfene. Portion of a small cave or excavation supposed to have been used by St. Patrick remains on north side.

CURIOSITIES.

On the lands of Mr. Franklyn, close by Drombanny Castle, is a curious octagonal pigeon house. In an excellent state of preservation and about 14' high. Every bit of inside was fitted for pigeons and would accomodate several hundred birds. Centre of walls was hollow and entrance was gained through small openings about 12" apart. Apartments, inside were divided. There was never a roof. Date of erection unknown, but believed to date from same time as Drombanny Castle. On Cahernorry Hill is a curious monument, reason for erection of which is unknown. The grandson of the person who had it erected does not ever know. It is a column of masonry about 8' in diameter and 12' high. On the top is a long pointed stone about 6' in height and high up on side of column is the following inscription:-

"In memoriam libertates civical Limerick ...?..... (indecipherable
Hanc turreim posnit Johannes Howley A.D. 1820, word)
When name and fame whence came are all forgot,
Who raised this obelisk, peace be his lot."

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Close to Donaghmore Church is St. Patrick's Well, which that Saint is supposed to have used on his way to Singland from Knockea Hill, where he had spent a long time preaching. On St. Patrick's Day visits of respect are paid to this well, but no cure is attributed to it or its waters.

Occasionally visits are also made at Lickadoon Castle, the birth place of Dermon O'Hurley, the Titular Arch-Bishop of Cashel, who was put to death in Dublin about the year 1600. Little of the castle left See Antiquities section.

Date 25th July, 1942.

(Signed) P. J. K. Lynch.

Donaghmore Church (contd)

Donaghmore was a parish and prebend in the ^{Co. Limerick} Barony of Blawilliam. According to the "Tripartite Life" St Patrick baptised the men of Thomond at Donaghmore. Bishop Edmond of Limerick granted it to Odo Fitz Rudci between the years 1216-23 but the prior of Athassel restored it to Edmond's successor, Hubert de Burgh about 1239. Maurice, Bishop of Killaloe granted it to Bishop Gerald of Limerick about 1275-99. Richard de Burgo claimed it in 1300 approximately. Canon Rupert Chaffe appointed it a prebend about 1593 on the death of Richard Arthur.

It is an early Celtic church, measuring 26 x 32 feet outside & 20 x 33 feet inside. The east gable appears to be late & is blank. The door which is in the west end is massive & has inclined jambs & large lintel. There is a slit window over this door. Remains, in a very good state of preservation but does not appear in receipt of any care. A little attention now would put it in safety for very many years. It is surrounded by an ancient burial ground where lie the remains of the ancestors & family of Bishop Dermot O'Sullivan, born at Lickadon, one mile to south.

P. J. K. L.

Williams town castle (or Ballywillin) The first mention of this castle was in 1583. About 1625 Theo Bourke held Williams town, with the exception of the guest hall. About 1636 John his son held a room in it, with the adjoining lands and a stone house at north of castle. About 1655 Lord Brittas (another Bourke) in conjunction with a Dr Arthur claimed it and the lands surrounding. Some years later they were disposed of & place was granted to a Colonel Clayton, but a room in middle story was confirmed to a daughter of Dr Arthur, above mentioned. Some time before 1840, it was repaired and modernised by the Broker family in whose possession it remained until a few years ago when property was divided by J. L. B. It is now owned by Mr Jas Bennett but is in receipt of no care. It is, nevertheless in most excellent repair. There is a splendid winding stairs at west corner & first & second storeys were vaulted. There is no roof now. At the east side on first story, a passage way went through wall for its entire length, with slits & holes for defence. The door on West which is gothic was recessed and five steps up. Over this was a cavity for first floor & about 2 feet square; an excellent way of protecting door as missiles could be dropped on attackers, from above. Five storeys high. Had fireplaces of cut limestone, in three sections.

Mansions, Castles & Estates.

Lennox House, Ballyneety, is the seat of the Russell family, built about 70 years ago. It is a very handsome mansion of classical design & houses a fine collection of family portraits & possessions, and splendid pieces of furniture. The gardens are very lovely but are not open to the public. In a greenhouse are orange & lemon trees, presently laden with perfect fruit. There also, is a Wistaria tree, believed to be the most perfect specimen in these Islands. In the grounds are the ruins of the original mansion, built in Elizabethan times, with pigeon house attached.

None of the foregoing mansions house any works of art or libraries. ROXBOROUGH House, the seat of late Sir Eustace Jane Becker, was burned by irregular forces during civil war period & in it was destroyed, many works of art. House now decayed but the grounds are beautifully wooded. Owned by Mr John Kirby. It was a large 18th century (late) mansion.

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Drombanny (I). First mentioned about end of 16th century when castle & lands were in possession of Donnell *de* Banra. These he entailed on his sons. Records show that in 1621 H. Holcroft ^{was} granted the ruined castle of Drombanny, late estate of Edm. *de* Banra, yet about 1630 approx. a livery on Drombanny was granted to Edm. *de* Banra on the death of his father Donough. After that it passed to Piers Breagh, son of Andrew, from whom it was granted to Duke of York. Property of *de* Franklyn.

Drombanny (II) stood in a large irregular double earthwork. No trace of castle now. (see article on *Calenvalley* castle)

Lickadon. About 1336 Lickadon vill & fossa (entrenched earth fort or mote & maybe the *don* which gives the place its name) was held by Bishop *de* Maur. de Rupefort. After him came W. de Birmingham & about 1580 it passed to W. Duff Hurley, who was pardoned. Here, *de*مود *de* Hurley, Titular Arch-Bishop of Cashel, was born. He was executed in Dublin about 1585. About 1600 it was garrisoned by *de* Carew. Next it passed to the Roche family & from them to Duke of York. At beginning of 18th century it was sold to Bishop Smith of Limerick. The tower was 70 feet high, walls 8 feet thick. Spiral stairs was in eastern section, with usual large gables & slit windows. Only north wall now remains. Property of *de* Noonan.

Calenvalley or Rakeen. Early in 14th century it was known as Rathendery when it was in possession of Boyle. From him it passed to *de* Cahise, when it was known as "Rakeen". About 1586 Bradagh *de* Cahise held it, from him it passed to W. Roche about 1620. About 1655 castle was held by Don Roche (son of Jordan) who was slain in 1691.

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Ballinagard. There once stood a castle on the site presently occupied by Ballinagard House. It was Burke property & dated from early 14th century. It continued in the Burke family until about 1650 when it passed to a Captain Faithful Chapman. In 1680, it was a peel tower four stories high. There is a story that a daughter of one of the Burkes, sprang from a window 16 yards high to escape a forced marriage. She afterwards married & lived very happily with the man she so avoided. In 1681, it passed to John Croker, in whose family it continued until 1935, when Courtney Croker, the last of the line died, & estate was divided by Irish Land Comm. It is said Satan once visited the House in company with a deceased member of the family. The actual owner of the House & estate never lived in it, but without any ill effects, it could be let to another member of family or person. The Crokers had another mansion in Co. Clare, where the owner of Ballinagard always lived.

Williamstown.

At the moment I am unable to deal completely with this grand old castle as a valuable source of exact information is denied me for two weeks. I shall forward the finished article as soon as completed & you can connect with this file.

Background. The first mention of this appears in Prime John's Charter. (1200 or there) Early in 14th century it passed to Roger under charter of Ricard, father of the 1st Moyné of Ballymagade. In the 17th century it passed to H. Holcroft, being estate of late George Burke. After him came John Burke who appears to have been last occupant. Only site of castle now remains.

Ballymagade (or White Town) The first mention of this was early in 17th century when castle was in possession of Edm. Comyn. Towards end of that century it passed, with lands, to Duke of York, who granted them to Alderman Robert Tunng. It is believed the Whites, who gave their name came there from Sutherland early in 15th century & built castle there. Only site now remains at Kildalbeg.

This is not the Ballymagade which figured in Sandfield's campaign
Sandfield's Ballymagade is in the Barony of Downgl. near Pallasgreen.

RATHURD CASTLE. The original "Rathurid" was a

family from 1253 - 1418. About the end of 16th century, J. Browne was in possession of castle, well repaired, with a new door, balne, prison house & other buildings.

After, came Robert Anstey, who in a short time was followed by Stichel, Burke & Field in quick succession. Towards end of 17th century castle & lands were jointly held by James Burke & Barth. Staehel. From then, it was granted to Capt J. Friend, (see subsequent survey. Friend or Friend family were associates of King William) who divided the estate with a Capt Wickenoth. Probably about time of James's.

The castle is an excellent preservation, adjoining the house of the Denis Ryan. It is a round building, as was inside, of three stories, 1st being vaulted. About 50 feet high. walls

13 feet thick at greatest mass. Has circular stone stairway.

Amongst all windows. On first floor, terraced way. About 2 feet wide. runs through centre of wall for about half circumference of castle,

Rathurd (Early Church) Whilst it is known that there was a church in Rathurd, there is now no trace of it. It was an ancient parish, merged into that of St Nicholas. The King of Cashel claimed this church & a fort near it, about the year 900. Rathardasurd (Book of Rights) Rathward & Carnarthy (Cahernony) churches were restored to the Bishop of Limerick about 1253, by Malchus, Prior of Athassel. The last mention of the church was in 1657 approx.

Cahernony (Early) Church. The first mention of this church was in the charter of King John in 1210. It was restored to the Bishop of Limerick by Prior of Athassel in 1253. approx. It was dedicated to St Nicholas. A portion of belfry about 12 feet high remains. The ruins of the S.C. church nearly date from 1810. (see photograph) In the burial ground about it are the vaults of the Howleys, Russells, Verekers (Viscount's Fort) & Shines. The Howley monument is a wonderful piece of workmanship. Nearby is a well called "Dobers Seran".

Caherwalla (Rahen) Church. The present ruins in the burial ground of Rahen date from 1200 approx & replaced an earlier foundation. In 1260 John Pincerna granted the churches of St Matthew & Droghda to augment the prebend of Thomas de Verdiff. Caherwalla (as it was then) was dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle. Ruins measure 60 x 21 feet. Three sections of south wall remain.

Lickadown Church. Only foundation (site) remains, close to the ruins of Lickadown Castle.

Donaghmore Church. The old church of Donaghmore, near Limerick city belongs to the early days of Christianity & was probably founded by St Patrick himself. A well dedicated to the Saint is nearby. (I shall be unable to complete this particular article for two weeks but I shall then forward full details when you can connect with this file.

On the lands of Mr Leahy at Lie Radoom is an unusual rectangular fort with a double earthwork. About 100 x 60 yards & at places 15 feet high. There is another irregular fort near Sonaghore bhuch on Mr Segan's land. There are most unusual forts, trenches and excavations on Knocka Hill, already described under Geology section. These are on the lands of Mr P. K. Power. There are two forts on the land of Mr Joseph Moloney, Dromanna & two on the lands of Mr Keane, near Knocka R. G. bhuch. There are five circular forts on the lands of Friarstown already mentioned in Antiquities section. Near Rakeen churchyard is another fort which utilises a craggy ridge to form its outer ring. (see description of Calowally or Rakeen castle) In this fort is a hollow sound, indicative of underground chambers or passages. There are numerous others, unworthy of mention. In all there are over 2,000 forts in County Linn.

On the lands of Mr Edmund Kirby at Parkree, Friarstown is a fort, in which gold was turned up about fifty years ago, by a Mr O'Connell, who then owned the place.

P. J. K. L.

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

BARONY OF 6. Lanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Donaghmore COUNTY Limerick

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?
--------	-----------------	------------------	------------

.....
.....	<u>None</u>
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Guest or Boarding Houses

.....
.....	<u>None</u>
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Restaurants and Cafés

.....
.....	<u>None</u>
.....
.....
.....

DATE 25th July, 1942. (Signed) P. J. K. Lynch
Surveyor.

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

SEA ANGLING

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF C. lamwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Donaghmore 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.

Small RIVER OR LAKE Ballyclough Nearest point to town (distance) Flows through parish

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Small trout caught in Ballyclough river during flood periods. Rarely in excess of half pound in weight

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout Under half pound.

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout.....

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon
Sea trout
Brown trout River is not frequented by angling folk

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

None

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

~~.....~~
~~.....~~
~~.....~~

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee None

Secretary (and Address) None

not in front end.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

[Blank dotted lines for notes, crossed out with a diagonal line]

Kinds of fish to be caught :

[Blank dotted lines for notes, crossed out with a diagonal line]

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

[Blank dotted lines for notes, crossed out with a diagonal line]

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 :

The Limerick Golf Club adjoins the parish on the western boundary & comprises 18 holes. One of the best inland courses in the country. Two miles from Limerick City.

Name of Professional Wm Daly

Is there a clubhouse on course? Yes Licensed? Yes

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

It is necessary to be introduced by a member .. month 20/-

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 South Liberties : Field at Edwardstown, Ballynedy

Hurling South Liberties : do.

Handball yes. Handball alley? Kearnes Licensed Premises, Calemory.

Soccer NO.

Rugby NO.

Cricket NO.

Hockey NO.

Bowls NO.

Bowling (on public roads) NO.

Lawn Tennis Rathbane Tennis Club. Kinds of courts 8 Green Courts.

Croquet NO.

Billiards NO.

Badminton NO.

Table Tennis NO.

Bridge Club NO.

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) None.

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.

..... Promoters.....

None.

.....

.....

.....

.....

DATE A. G. K. Lynch.

(Signed)

A. G. K. Lynch.
Surveyor.

25th July, 1942

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Clanwilliam*TOWN OR VILLAGE PARISH *Donaghmore* COUNTY *Limerick*

Location and brief description.

Population

The joint parishes of Donaghmore & Knockrea stretch from the eastern boundary of Limerick City to the village of Ballyneety. Land is of rich limestone & of a hilly nature.

Is there a ~~Tea~~ Hall? *yes. Two* Location *Ballyneety Village*

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

None - save private house arrangements

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Limerick City & Killbuckan* Distance *Both about 4 miles* Bus? *G.S.R. Service daily*Public lighting by—Electricity? *None* Gas? *None*

DANCING

Dance hall *at Ballyneety* Proprietor *Mrs Power (TIVOLI)**do do* *Mrs Doole (THE HALL)*

Short dances (8-11) take place at TIVOLI, on Sunday nights. Only very occasionally are functions held at the Hall.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Pictures shown

Shows, pictures & theatricals take place regularly at above hall - property of Mrs Power. (TIVOLI)

Theatre *see above* Kind of shows *see above*

(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *None*
Private Lending Libraries *None*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

R. b. Church *Donaghmore* Services (Sundays) *10 A.M. Official time.*
On the first Sunday of each month 9 & 11 A.M. do.
KNOCKEA ~~Donaghmore~~ 10 & 12 Noon do.
Ballynecy Protestant Church (C. of I.) once monthly during emergency. 10 A.M.
Kilgusson Protestant Church (Church of Ireland) 11.30 A.M. During Winter months
12.00 Noon " Summer "
official time.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Ballynecy*
Business (? 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

People bathe in a lake in the grounds of Glenview House, Ballynecy.

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)

.....

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

*No important public building save the
Sessions House at Ballynecity, which is
a small square building of cut stone.*

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*Three mixed National Schools -
Donaghmore, Knocka & Roxborough,*

HOSPITALS

None

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets..... *None*

Weekly market day..... */* Half-holiday..... */*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

In normal times petrol is procurable in tins from Mr. O'Keefe in Ballyneety.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis..... *None*

Motors (Touring)..... *None*

Boats (State type)..... *None*

Bicycles..... *None for hire.*

Caravans..... *None for hire. There are three privately owned.*

Horses..... *None for hire.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Country side at large.

Local Improvements Committee..... *None*

Secretary..... */*

DATE *25th July, 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.

The remains of the forts on Knockree Hill date from the time of St Patrick (circa 440) & on the hill is a stone on which the saint is supposed to have knelt. It bears marks resembling those which would be made on a soft substance by a kneeling person. It is believed that a big battle took place there in early times, judging by the fortifications on the Hill & the presence of large numbers of bones about the place (see Geology section). In early times place was known as Dun mDarlfeine. Portion of a small cave or excavation, supposed to have been used by St Patrick remains on north side.

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.

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.

None

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.

Fruarstown Abbey. The first mention of this Abbey was in 1586, when the "House of St Francis de Ballynabrake" was held by Gerard Baluff, (son of Philip) a rebel. His occupation of the Abbey lasted until 1590. It is believed the Abbey was founded in 1410. The place is in a most excellent state of preservation, 81 feet long by 19 feet wide. An east window has two round headed lights and a flat splay. In south wall are a similar one light window & a two light window, with the mullion gone. In the west end is a window with two bluntly pointed lights and a door underneath. A door (very narrow) in the north side has a round head of one stone. There is no light or window on this north side. To the south is a projecting wing, 29 feet by 17 feet with two fireplaces & chimneys, two east windows (one rectangular), and a door. Early in the last century, Mr Hunt, owner of the place, removed a slab in floor of abbey and found a large empty earthen crock in a hollow beneath it. The Abbey was renovated by the late Mrs Annie Dunscombe Russell Hunt, in memory of her husband who is buried there. The following is the inscription on his tombstone.

"John Thomas Urquhart Hunt, born 10th July, 1829, died 29th March, 1898.

Remember man as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so you will be,
Prepare for death and follow me."

The present owner of the property about the Abbey, is Major G. Lawrence-Hastings, who bought the estate from the Hunts.

Three hundred yards to the west of Abbey is a "hagan" stone, 6 feet high, by six wide & 15 inches thick. Close by the "hagan" stone are four circular pits or foundations. (Plan sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information) Close by the "hagan" stone are four circular pits or foundations. Only foundations remain.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF B. lanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Donaghmore COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

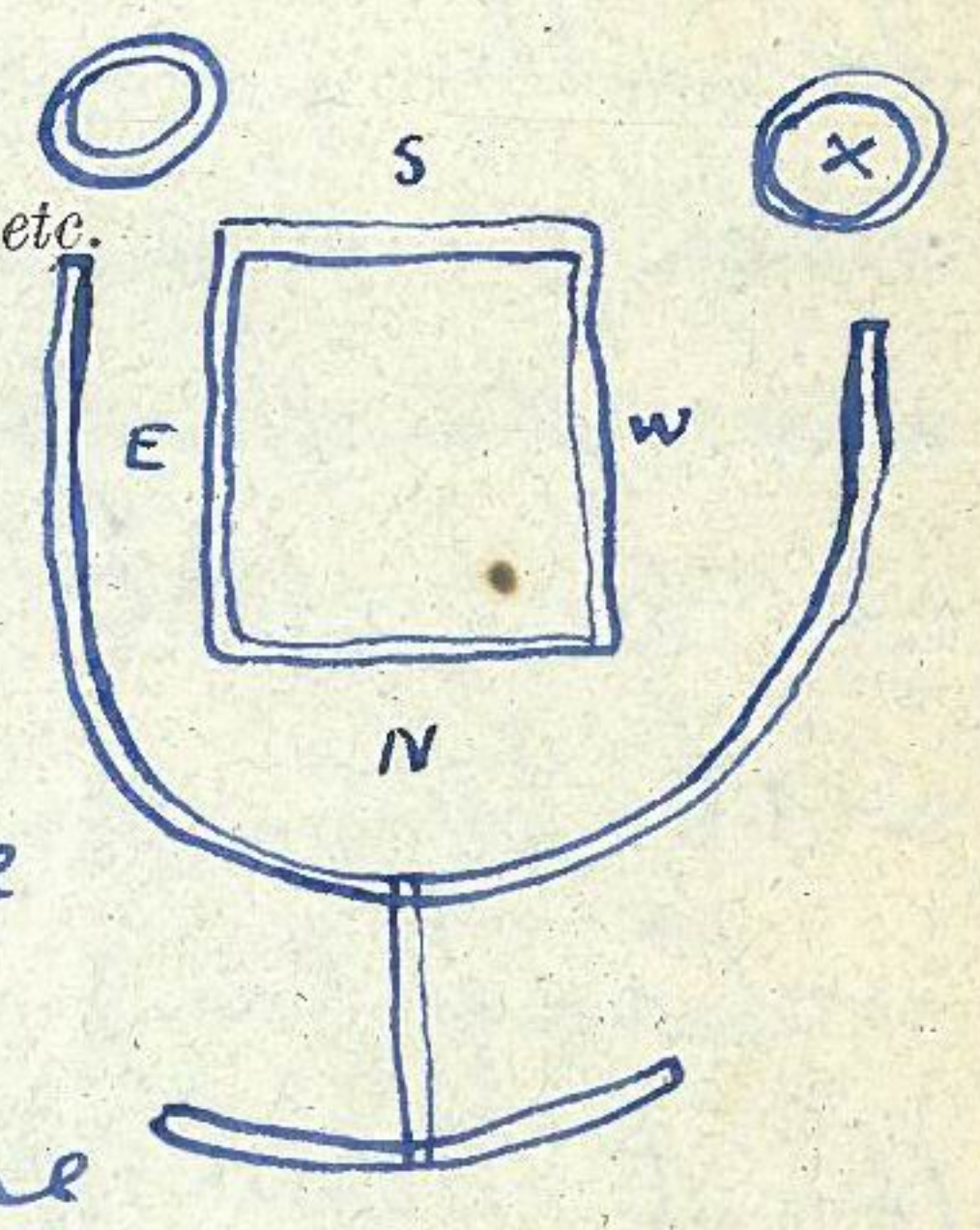
Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

From Knockra Hill at the back of Mr Power's house, is a splendid view of Limerick city & country about it, with the river Shannon, dividing it from Clare. To the East & South is an unobstructed view of the great plain of the "Golden Vale" stretching to the foot of the Galtee mountains. The plain is well wooded & studded with ruins of old castles, dating from time of the Norman invasion.

GEOLOGY

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

On the summit of Knockra Hill, are the remains of numerous forts, round & rectangular. Herewith, rough sketch of the foundations. In small ringed fort marked x, bones & skulls were dug up about a year ago. The land owner is Mr Patrick Power. Besides the trenches shown, there are several others, about the hill.



MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

"Brooklands" Ballyheedy was once the property of the Viscounts of Orkney (Vickers) but is presently the residence of Mrs H. Anslow Farmer. A handsome house of early 19th century. Nearby is Lickadon House, property of Mr Wm Leahy, (G.S.) & formerly residence of the Marquis of Hunt. A Georgian type mansion. At Friarstown is situated the very handsome residence of Major G. Lawrence-Hastings, formerly the property of Mrs Anne Dunscombe-Russell-Hunt. (Deceased) Here is housed a very fine herd of pedigree short-horns. Baronial type of house of the late 18th century.

Ballynacarde House, a magnificent early 19th century mansion is presently occupied by the defence forces. Formerly the seat of the broken family. The owner is Mrs J. Orville, William St. Limerick. The estate which was one of the most beautiful & fertile in Ireland was taken over & divided by J. L. C. some years ago. (Very little of its former beauty now remains). From a member of this family originated the saying "I doubt it says broken" (see article on Ballybroken parish.) In the house are most beautiful fireplaces of marble; stairway of cut stone, projecting from walls; carved mahogany doors & panelling; wonderfully ornamented ceilings & friezes. In the grounds is some fine statuary of stone & marble. The house is built of cut limestone.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Clanwilliam

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Donaghmore COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description.

Population.....

The joint parishes of Donaghmore & Knockea stretch from the eastern boundary of Limerick City to the village of Ballyneety. Land is of rich limestone & of a hilly nature.

Is there a ~~Town~~ Hall? yes. Two. Location Ballyneety Village

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

None - save private house arrangements

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Limerick City & Killonnan Distance Both about 4 miles Bus? G.S.R. Service daily

Public lighting by—Electricity? None Gas? None

DANCING

Dance hall at Ballyneety Proprietor Mrs Power (TIVOLI)
do Mrs Doole (THE HALL)

Short dances (8-11) take place at TIVOLI, on Sunday nights. Only very occasionally are functions held at the Hall.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas..... Pictures shown.....
Shows, pictures & theatricals take place regularly at above hall - property of Mrs Power. (TIVOLI)

Theatre see above Kind of shows see above.
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

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 the lands of the Franklyn, close by Drombanny castle, is a curious octagonal pigeon house. In an excellent state of preservation & about 14 feet high. Every bit of inside was fitted for pigeons & would accommodate several hundred birds. Centre of walls was hollow & entrance was gained through small openings about 12 inches apart. Apartments, inside were divided. There was never a roof. Date of erection unknown, but believed to date from same time as Drombanny castle.

On Calamony Hill is a curious monument, reason for erection of which is unknown. The grandson of the person who had it erected does not even know. It is a column of masonry about 8 feet in diameter & 12 feet high. On the top is a long pointed stone about 6 feet in height & high up on side of column is the following inscription:
In memoriam libertatis civical LIDERICK
Hanc turrim posuit Johannes Howley
A.D. 1820. (Indecipherable word)

When name & fame whence came are all forgot,
who raised this obelisk, place be his lot.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Close to Donaghmore Church is St Patrick's Well, which that Saint is supposed to have used on his way to Singland from Knockree Hill, where he had spent a long time preaching. On St Patrick's Day visits of respect are paid to this well, but no cure is attributed to it or its waters.

Occasionally visits are also made at Lichadon Castle, the birth place of Dermot O'Hurley, the titular Arch-Bishop of Cashel, who was put to death in Dublin about the year 1600. Little of the castle left. See Antiquities section.

(Signed)

P. J. K. Lynch
Surveyor.

DATE 25th July, 1942.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Ballybricken Parish.

1. Ballybricken Church in Ruins.
 2. Liagair Stone, known as "Bochill Brag"
-

DONAGHMORE PARISH.

3. Donaghmore Church in ruins.
 4. Howley Monument at Cahernony.
 5. Cahernony Church in ruins.
 6. Lickadeen Castle, in ruins.
 7. Friarston Abbey, in ruins.
 8. Rathurd Castle.
-

P. J. K. L.

18.7.42.

(3rd sheet)

Donaghmore Parish

1. DROMBANNA CASTLE.
2. OCTAGONAL PIGEON HOUSE AT DROMBANNA CASTLE.
3. GLENNVIEW HOUSE, BALLYNEETY.
4. WILLIAMSTOWN CASTLE.

BRUFF PARISH.

5. LOUGH GUR FROM SOUTH.
6. CROMLECH ON SOUTHERN SHORE.
7. DESMOND CASTLE (LOUGH GUR CASTLE)
8. SITE OF 17TH CENTURY B.C. DWELLING.

P.I.K.L. 24-8-42

Photographs.

Parish of Caherconlish.

1. Carrig O'Reilly or Carrigoreilly Castle.
2. Site of Ginkles' Grave.
3. Ballybrood Watch Tower.
4. Ancient Boundary Stone (On lands of Mr Blackwell).
5. Ruin of Caherconlish Church. (Which was erected on site formerly occupied by a Franciscan).

Ballybricken Parish.

6. Caherilly Castle.
7. Ballybricken Court. (or Castle)
8. "LOGAN" Stone on land of Mr Blackwell, High Park, Caherconlish.