

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Coshlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilfinane PARISH Kilfinane COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

About Kilfinane there is a grouping of the mountains quite unlike anything to be found elsewhere. To the east and south they lie in a series of sweeping curves, many of them clothed in soft green due to the planting schemes carried out by the Forestry section of the Dept of Lands. From beneath, the views are quite delightful but are completely eclipsed by those which may be gained by ascending any of the peaks.

GEOLOGY

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

The Rock formation is most unusual & is composed mostly of sandstone and igneous rock. The slopes of the mountains, facing the Golden Vale are somewhat steep & rugged but on the far side they slope gently. This gave rise to a local belief that the Golden Vale is the mouth of a

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

huge extinct volcano, which in time became closed in, giving the deep rich soil which is found there only. The line of hills is believed one of the lips of the volcano.

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

No 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.

Kelfinnane  
Mote

Beside Kelfinnane is the mote known as "Dunda na Riosh" or Rifle Fort of the King. It is a splendid earthwork, flat on top & measuring about 56 ft ~~across~~ across the top, close on 30 ft high, and over 100 yards in diameter from outer ring. There were three rings and fosses. Inner ring about 15<sup>(15)</sup> ft high & outer about 6 ft. It is in an excellent state of preservation with the exception of a wide breach in rings at north side. Is approached by a gate from Banack St. Due to trespass by cattle the mote itself and the rings are being broken & worn away. In receipt of no care. Most likely it is an early Norman construction & does not deserve the name above given. A great deal of outer ring, to east, is levelled.

Forts On a hilltop on lands of Mrs Brian Ryan, Ballinluna, half mile south west of Kelfinnane is a fairly well preserved fort about 30 yards in diameter which has inside its ring to south, a rectangular earthwork about 6 x 4 yards. Strange to say, forts are not very plentiful in this parish.

SOUTERRAINS. A number of these are to be found in the neighbourhood. One near "Our Lady's Well" at Thomastown is negotiable for a short distance & is soundly constructed. There is also one at Ballygiffin on land of Mr Hennessy; One in Mr O'Keefe's field at Ballinluna, and one in Mr Dobin's field at rear of Church of Ireland. All three are now closed. As regards souterrain in Dobin's field I spoke to a man who in his young days often travelled for a considerable distance underground in this,

# Antiquities.

I

## SOUTERRAINS.

Kilfinnane

with the aid of a lamp and a ball of string, one end of which he fastened at the entrance. Some years ago a collapse of earth during wet weather closed the opening but this man to whom I spoke marked the spot by taking measurements from fixed objects nearby. In the field about, are a number of <sup>earthen</sup> mounds. This field again is that, in which is situated the estate already dealt with.

## EARLY CHURCH.

Kilfinnane was also the site of an early <sup>parish</sup> church which was dedicated to St Andrew. The ruins of old church of Ireland stand on its site. About it is an old burial ground. No care.

CASTLES. Beside church run is the fragment of an early Norman castle built of red sandstone. Most of the south wall of keep to a height of 30 ft. stands. In its early days, probably 15th century, it was associated with a Purcell family & later (according to local tradition) with the White Knight. It finally passed to the Oliver family who owned all the surrounding territory and shaped its destiny. Situated on side of street. No care. I am informed the Roche family were also associated with this castle.

## Palatine Settlement, Kilfinnane.

About the year 1670, Mr Silver Oliver (Captain of Yeomanry) planted about 60 Palatine families about Kilfinnane, principally at Ballyriggin on east side. The allotments were of about 8 acres each & was let for 3 lives at one third the rate charged to Irish tenants. The land, however, was of poor quality & the Palatines had a hard struggle. Of the original settlers, ~~six~~ <sup>only</sup> 3 families now survive on the land. Two named STEEPE and one FIZELLE. Some others moved to town of Kilfinnane where they carry on small trades & are of the name BARKMAN.

Silver Oliver was from Castle Oliver at Ballyorgan & his estate stretched from Ballyorgan to Knocklong, a distance of about 10 miles. For his services, he was rewarded with this vast territory during the confiscations following 1641. Prior to this he held some post at Cork Harbour.

On hill top at Ballyriggin is a group of rocks known as "The Palatines' Rock" as it is believed they used here congregate. It was at any rate in the centre of their settlement. See picture. There are no relics and none of the former dwellings survive. John Wesley visited the colony in 1765 & was well received. P. 9-2.

4/9/43.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Coshlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilfinane PARISH Kilfinane 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~~ LOOBAGH Nearest point to town (distance) 1 mile north.

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Small Brown Trout.

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout 1/2 to 1 lb are caught.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout flood fishing - Mar / Apr. Wet fly fishing - June / July.

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon /  
Sea trout /  
Brown trout All wet fly fishing. Orange Grouse; Greenwell's Groy; Quills.

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

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

Kilfinane & Morning Star Anglers Club.  
This stream is not frequented by anglers from outside areas.

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

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

Kilfinane & Kilmallurk

Local Angling Club Kilfinane & Morning Star Anglers Club Membership Fee 1/- per year.

Secretary (and Address) James Saberty, Bosnets town, Kilfinane

Visitors to area allowed to fish, free of charge.

**SEA ANGLING**

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

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Kinds of fish to be caught :

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

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Bait available locally ?..... Fishing tackle ?.....

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

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**GOLFING**

Name of Club..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

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.....  
.....  
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Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course ?..... Licensed ?.....

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day..... Per week.....

**RACING**

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....

Under which rules?.....

Situation of course.....

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *Scarten Black & Tan.*

Harriers.....

Beagles.....

**COURSING**

Name of Club..... Meeting held annually?.....

**GREYHOUND RACING**

Name of Company.....

Races on (nights).....

**SHOOTING**

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

*Some excellent shooting to be had in neighbourhood. Grouse, Partridge, Woodcock & Pheasant plentiful. Slieve Reagh Gun Club has preserved most of the mountains to north & east. Charleville Gun Club comes close on south. Remainder free.*

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

*Slieve Reagh Mountain - Slieve Reagh Gun Club, Hospital*

*Thomastown - Forestry Section, Dept of Lands.*

*Mountains to South - Charleville Gun Club.*

Shooting Club *Slieve Reagh Gun Club Secys. Jerk O'Callaghan & John Dwyer, Hospital.*  
*Charleville Gun Club " Wm Burke, Main St, Charleville*

**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

Name of Club..... Competitions held?.....

**ROWING AND SAILING**

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

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.....  
.....

# 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 ..... /  
Hurling *Junior & Senior Teams. No special practice ground.*  
Handball *yes.* Handball alley? *yes.*  
*None* { ~~Soccer~~ *Handball* *↓* *alley adjoins licensed premises of*  
Rugby *Mr Michael Dobin.*  
Cricket ..... /  
Hockey ..... /  
Bowls ..... /  
Bowling (on public roads) ..... /  
Lawn Tennis *yes. In village* Kinds of courts *2 Green.*  
Croquet ..... /  
Billiards *yes. 2 St Peter's Hall.*  
Badminton ..... /  
Table Tennis ..... /  
Bridge Club ..... /  
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) ..... /  
..... /  
..... /

## ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club ..... 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.

*Pattern at Our Lady's* Promoters .....  
*Well, Thonastern. 25 March.*  
*Tennis Tournament* *Kilfinane S.F. Club.*  
*Usually held in August.*

DATE *12. 8. 43.*

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



**I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY**

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

BARONY OF Coshlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilfinane PARISH Kilfinane COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 900 approx.

The town of Kilfinane lies under the shadow of Slieve Ragh & Ballyhanna mountains amidst beautiful scenery. Approached from all sides by good roads. Six miles S.E. of Kilmallock. No limestone to be seen here - all red sandstone & igneous rock. A well kept & prosperous looking town with good shops, doing good business.

Is there a Town Hall? — Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

In the square where there was formerly a derelict site is now a pretty little garden with a statue of Sacred Heart in centre. Erected by a former curate with the assistance of parishioners. Railed in & tastefully planted with shrubs.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Excellent water supply. Modern sewerage. Both maintained by Board of Health.

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

Nearest station Knocklong & Kilmallock Distance Both 6 miles Bus Excellent daily services

Public lighting by—Electricity? elec. Gas? —

**DANCING**

Dance hall "TOWN HALL" Proprietor Mrs C. Brennan,

The Square. Post office,

Kilfinane.  
Evening dance every Wednesday.  
Kilmallock once per month.

**CINEMAS AND THEATRES**

Cinemas "Town Hall" Pictures shown Every Sunday night.  
(nights)

Theatre "Town Hall" Kind of shows Drama, comedy, etc.  
(Drama, Comedy &c.) periodically.

**LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries *Branch of County Library at house of Mr Eugene O'Sullivan N.T. Ullain St.*

Private Lending Libraries *Michael O'Keefe, Corner House.*

**CHURCHES AND SERVICES**

R. C. Church *Kilfinane* Services (Sundays) *8.30 & 11 A.M.*  
*all time all year round.*

*Church of Ireland*  
*Kilfinane* *12 Noon* *official time.*  
*Time is often altered to suit local conditions.*

**POSTAL FACILITIES**

Location of Post Office *Ullain St., Kilfinane.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *All services.*

**BANKING**

Banks *Ulster & Leinster Bank.*

**SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES**

Sports Dealers */*

Photographic Stores *"The Medical Hall" - Prof. Mr Michael Leahy, Ullain St., Kilfinane.*

*"The Pharmacy" - Prof. Mr Michael Leahy, Ullain St., ~~Ullain~~ Kilfinane. (different people)*

**SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS**

Swimming Pool? */* Location */*

Public Baths? */* Location */*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Cultural Societies

Kilfinane Dramatic Class.  
Give performances twice yearly.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

Sawing is principal industry. Up to date  
creamery in town. Corn crushing by water power  
is carried on at the local mill, recently repaired.  
Some saw milling is also carried on in the  
town.

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

Dedicated to St Andrew.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

R. C. Church is a magnificent building of red sandstone with  
limestone surrounding doors & windows. It has a tall graceful  
spire, which can be seen for many miles about. Seating 600.  
Church of Ireland is also a very lovely sandstone building with  
a short spire, situated on rising ground at south side  
of town. Convent & convent schools are solid buildings.  
The Vocational school is of ultra modern design & very pleasing.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Vocational School for Girls & Boys,  
National School for Boys,  
Secondary " " Boys,  
Convent Secondary " " Girls } Both these are run by the  
Convent National " " Girls } Sisters of Charity

HOSPITALS

**FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY**

Monthly fairs and markets 19th May or 25th October are only fairs held now. There were others but they have now fallen into abeyance.  
Weekly market day ~~the~~ <sup>last</sup> Thursday of every month Half-holiday <sup>Thursday</sup>

**GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS**

Mrs Fitzgerald, Kilminee  
David Noonan, do.

**CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :**

Taxis William Mc Aniff, Kilminee  
Gerald Shanahan, do.

Motors (Touring)

Boats (State type)

Bicycles

Caravans

Horses

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

County side at large.

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE 12. 8. 43.

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch

Surveyor.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING.

*QPB*

BARONY OF Koshlea

TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilfinane PARISH Kilfinane COUNTY Limerick

*QPB*

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms (GUEST)	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?	<u>LAUNDRY</u>
<u>Ashtip Hotel</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>(Proprietors Mr/S. O'Connell)</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>		

3 Public Rooms.

A very comfortable Hotel. First class fare provided at reasonable cost.

Guest or Boarding Houses


Restaurants and Cafés


DATE 12.8.43. (Signed) A. J. Lynch  
Surveyor.

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

## HISTORIC SITES

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

O'Sullivan Bere camped for some time at Kilfinane during his retreat from ~~Dunboyne~~ <sup>Dunboyne</sup> and after his battle with Philip de Barry which took place in the region of ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Bellallow, where according to the well known poem, the river ran red with blood.

"of the White Boys" says  
Stephen Rynne (Cutting, I. Press  
27/10/47)

## 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.

In the little park in Square, Kilfinane, is a spot known as "Crotty's Hole" Here was "buried" <sup>William</sup> "Staker" Wallace who was executed <sup>in 1798</sup> for his part in Denian Rising. His head was spiked on market house <sup>near</sup> which still survives, but very much altered & now used as a corn store. The grave was discovered some years ago when the park was being laid out & a block of cement with cross thereon marks the spot. At same time a quantity of human bones, remains of other victims, was also found. During his "trial" Wallace was imprisoned in the local jail which also survives but much altered & now used as a residence.

## 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.

Beside Kilfinane on lands of Mr O'Regan at Spa Hill is a strong iron well. It was closed up some years ago by the present land owner as he considered the trespass too much. The Spa was much frequented & its closing is greatly regretted. Nearby on lands of Mr O'Meara on left bank of Mill stream is another iron well the waters of which are much taken by local people. Difficult to approach & in bad condition. A third iron well on lands of Mr Dobin at Gleanmoreheen beside Kilfinane has also been closed. A move to have any of the wells developed would be greatly appreciated by Kilfinane people.

## CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

At Thomastown, Kilkinnare, on lands of the Patrick O'B nee  
100 yards to east of road is Our Lady's well. Pilgrimages  
are made on 25th March in each year and the water from well,  
together with the performance of some rounds, is believed a  
cure for many ailments. Many years ago great crowds  
flocked to the well but it is now frequented only by the  
elders & some "old faithfuls." It is a remarkably good  
well - the water continually boiling up through silver sand  
and causing many air bubbles.

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch

Surveyor.

DATE 15. 8. 43.