

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

[BARONY OF Glenquin.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ashford..... PARISH Killeedy..... COUNTY Limerick.....

TOPOGRAPHY

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

From the mountain peak of ^{topographical features.} "Mullaghanish" (1189 ft) located a mile south of Ashford village, an outstanding view can be obtained of the circular Limerick Plain. Really, this is the best of the many good views, which can be got along the "Shive Luachra" and "Maghareirk" ridge which rise so abruptly from the Plain. For pleasant scenic cycling rides, or walks, the overhanging, wooded road from Barnagh to Broadford would not be surpassed. It seems a pity that this road surface is very bad.

GEOLOGY

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

The abrupt mountain ridge to the south of parish is the dividing link between the limestone plain, and the sandstone highlands, this is the only Geological feature worth noting.

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 is nothing coming under above headings in Killeedy parish at the present time. "Glenduff Castle" the only imposing one was burned down, its owner (Miss Jovers) lives in Co. Clare. A semi-intact section at the back of this once beautiful mansion is now occupied - some say owned - by a Mr. Kenny, who also farms the estate.

It has no notable historical connections. Visitors or Tourists are welcome to inspect. Located half way (2 miles) between Ashford & Broadford.

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.

"Glenquin Castle" (marked on O.S. map as Glenquin House) is one of the best preserved old castles in Co. Limerick. Very little is known of its ancient history. Reputed to have been built by O'Hanlon, later held by M^cSheehy for the Earl of Desmond. It was converted into an R.I.C. barracks, and in 1916 was the assembly place for the I.R.A. and distribution centre for the basement arms — if they came — located on the Strand, Ballagh road — of the main roads that skirt the mountains between Barnagh and Broadford — Glenquin Castle is built on the foothills, and from its concrete top commands an imposing view.

It measures 42' x 30' by about 90' high. The angles and masonry are perfect. The stairs, and two of its upper floors are in good order, there is supposed to exist an underground tunnel, it has well battered foundations, with south & east doors. The stairs and room lighting was furnished by the following windows — west side four (and four other top ones) south side eight. north side two. Latrine hole near north foundation. South side has a stone pipe (or refuse pipe) in an unusual position midway up the wall.

In charge of Office of Public Works. Mr Delee (nearby) holds key. "Killeady Castle" located within one mile of "Glenquin Castle" and a hundred yards from St. Ita's Shrine and ancient church. Only a much undermined south wall and an adhering west section remains. Wall shows a broken window with a highly uncommon shaped one. A huge section of detached masonry which once formed the south eastern angle lies nearby, with other scattered remnants. The height of present ruins would be 50 feet. It is perched on a steep mound and surrounded on three sides by a swamp, through which flows a stream. There is no history attached, it is a miracle or mystery how it stands in its undermined condition.

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

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH *Killeedy & Raharagh*

BARONY *Glenquin*

COUNTY *Limerick*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Ashford*

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<i>None.</i>						<i>There is not an Hotel, Guest House, Boarding House, or Restaurant in the Parish</i>	<i>None.</i>
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<i>None.</i>							

DATE *August 17th 1944.*

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed) *Raeph Lucas*
Surveyor.

KILLEEDY PARISH. GLENQUIN BARONY, CO. LIMERICK.

"St Ita's ancient church Killeedy according to Westropp was founded by the Saint or Abbot B. 530. D. 569. was in good condition 1615, with thatched chancel. was in ruins in 1655. The church was burned by the "Rockites" (Lewis Page 136). Nave measured 27' 3" x 29' 2". Chancel 37' x 18'. The choir was used till 1800. walls were 10 1/2 x 2 1/2 chancel arch was pointed of cut stone 10' 9" wide, the other features were modern. The nave was early Romanesque. The west end had fallen long before 1840, but old people remember its door round headed with several concentric arches, walls 19 1/2 x 3' 2". fragments of north and south sides remained, the latter had two round headed windows 5' 3" ^{and} 3' 10" from the west end. St Ita's well was dry. It was reputed to cure small pox in children?"

The present condition of ruins is — A neat glass covered statue of St Ita with crozier in hand stands at Epistle side chancel arch, with nearby "offering box" arch still intact. South wall of nave with its two windows in fair condition. Just a fragment of north wall remains. Chancel walls & East gable much decayed and very overgrown. East (Altar) window damaged. The railed in O'Donnell tombs cover half of the chancel, while other graves occupy the other half as well as under the Chancel Arch etc. West Gable completely gone. The Saints bones are reputed to lie beneath the covering statue. The surrounding graveyard is very neatly kept; it has some good monuments and ancient slabs. St Ita's ^{circumferent} dry well which measures 3' ~~in~~ deep by 16" in diameter is located to left of entrance gate.

"According to the T. P. of Killeedy. (Fr O'Sullivan) St Ita was born in Co Waterford and directed or inspired by God to go to Killeedy, where other great saints grew up around her. She was endowed with great powers of prophecy and wrought many miracles. The statue over her grave was erected in 1910. She visited Blonmacnoise, she gave St Brendan ~~advice~~ — the Patron Saint of Kerry — advice, and Tournafulla her curse.

The Ancient Church of St Ita is located four miles south east of Newcastlewest — on the roadside.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Glenquin*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Ashford* PARISH *Killeady* 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.* Nearest point to town (distance) *—*

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

None.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon *—* Sea trout *—* Brown trout *—*

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon *—* Sea trout *—* Brown trout *—*

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon *None.*

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 *—*

Secretary (and Address) *None.*

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 ? —

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 :

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 Flapper Meeting only*
Under which rules?..... *None*
Situation of course..... *None East Side of Village*

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *None.*
Harriers..... *None.*
Beagles *None.*

COURSING

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

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 :

Fairly good Grouse Shooting on mountains forming South boundary, woodcock & snipe in glens & bogs, Some Rabbits, & Crows, few Pheasants.

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

No preserved patches

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

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

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

ROWING AND SAILING

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

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..... *None.*

Hurling *Two Hurling Fields — Ashford and Ballynagh — near village*

Handball..... *None.* Handball alley? *None.*

Soccer..... *None.*

Rugby..... *None.*

Cricket..... *None.*

Hockey..... *None.*

Bowls..... *None.*

Bowling (on public roads)..... *None.*

Lawn Tennis *Yes? at Ballynagh* Kinds of courts *Green*

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 *Ashford* Events held under rules of *N. A. C. A.*

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.

<i>Elapper Race Meeting. Easter Monday.</i>	Promoters <i>Mr Joseph Kelly, Ashford.</i>
<i>Athletic & cycling Sports — no definite date.</i>	" " "
<i>Pilgrimage to St. Ita's Shrine 15th January</i>	<i>Parochial custom</i>
<i>Hurling matches — no definite date.</i>	<i>Mr J. Kelly, Ashford.</i>
	<i>& G. A. A.</i>

DATE *August 17th 1944*

(Signed) *Raese Lucas*
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Glenguin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ashford PARISH Killeedy COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Raheenagh Population 30

Ashford - the only village in Killeedy Parish is located 4 miles west of Broadford and 7 miles S. East of Newcastlewest. It comprises 3 Pubs, A R.C. Church, A boys and girls school, and a few private houses. Mullaghareirk mountains overhang the village and their precipitous wooded sides add charm to it. The road surface of village - and approaches - is indifferent, and the lack of water, and distance from Post Office are drawbacks to an otherwise fairly well kept & prosperous looking village.

Is there a Town Hall? A Private Hall. Location Raheenagh.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description :

Sports & Hurling fields, small Tennis Court.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage :

"Killeedy & Raheenagh Parish" has the unique distinction of having no water supply, or Public or Private Pump in the entire Parish. Sewerage does not exist, back yards, & fields meet the sanitary requirements. A few wells, and small streams from the mountains give a limited water supply.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Newcastlewest Distance 6 miles Bus? None

Public lighting by—Electricity? None Gas? None

DANCING

Dance hall At Raheenagh Proprietor Denis Cronin.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas None Pictures shown None
(nights)

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

HISTORIC SITES

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

None.

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.

*St Ita — the patron saint of Limerick diocese is
reputed to have been buried in Killeedy on 15th Jan 570.
The site of her grave is pointed out at Epistle side of
Ancient Church where Nave and Chancel arch meet.*

Note Please see additional sheet under "Antiquities"

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 ever existed.

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.

There is nothing in Parish of Killeedy coming under above heading.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

The Pilgrimage to St. Ita's Shrine at Killeedy is one of the oldest established in Limerick - if not in Eire - It is also the most up to date. The ceremony starts with early morning high mass, and the Pilgrimage goes on throughout the day. All in the Parish go to confession and communion, and only the clouds of night force the faithful to cease their petitions for the help and guidance of their Patron Saint. Innumerable cures are claimed, and it would be a miracle indeed if there was no response to such an outward display of Faith and devotion.

Night sees the nearby Hall crammed with the Pilgrims of the day, now worshipping at the Shrine of Dance and Gaety. A resident appropriately remarked "after salvation comes damnation" or perhaps Goldsmith in his "Traveller" describing the Italian "a mistress or a saint in every grove."

The comparisons are not intended as irreverent or vulgar.

(Signed)

Ralph Lucas.

Surveyor.

DATE August 17th 1944.