

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

[BARONY OF *Glenquin*.....

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Castle Mahon*..... PARISH *Mahoonagh*..... COUNTY *Limerick*.....

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

*There is nothing coming under above headings in Mahoonagh Parish. The land is mostly flat with some 200<sup>ft</sup> elevations, from which there are no scenic views. There are no interesting cycle rides or walks within the Parish limits, so from the Tourist point of view it could be styled "A flat Tyre."*

### GEOLOGY

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

*There are no unusual Geological features. Limestone prevails throughout the Parish.*

*Castle Mahon is noted for the quality of its gravel and sand deposits, which are considered the best in Co. Limerick for building purposes.*

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

*Nothing under above headings. The scattered farmsteads and houses are of the usual type characteristic of a dairying County.  
The farmers seem very comfortable and if I might add — snobbish.*

## ANTIQUITIES

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

Bastle Mahon (Mahoonagh) Early Church (or abbey) according to Westropp 212.130 dedicated to St John the Baptist 1410. Is 69' x 24' by 12' high.

East window was of gritstone pointed with one shaft branching out at top, and bar holes. The south window was early, with inclined jambs, round heads and mouldings. South door ~~was~~ and other features defaced, walls 3ft thick.

At the present time it is in much the same condition as when "Westropp" reported on it. It is much overgrown, has ten tombstones in its interior with a huge pile of human skulls and bones occupying the Epistle side of <sup>the</sup> one time altar.

I think this collection of <sup>supposed</sup> human bones could not be excelled in size or weirdness anywhere.

At the Gospel side of East window there is a curious circular moulding in corner of North wall.

The surrounding cemetery is well kept, has some very fine tombstones, and ancient slabs, and is plentifully decorated with Yew Trees. Cemetery surrounded by sand pits.

"Bastle Mahon Castle" — The Tower is 35' x 24' by about 35ft high, walls are 6½ft thick. The windows are pointed and of cut limestone. Supposed to have been built by one of the Deemonds. Its history is as obscure in the reference books, as it is locally. and its examination was rendered difficult by the very unfriendly dog of the castle owner — Mr Raleigh — who lives nearby.

"Castlemahon Castle" continued from Sheet No. 1.

"Westropp" 368 (36) describes this ancient Castle of Mahonagh. In 1641 Mr Escott held the castle, he was expelled and some of the English hanged at Mayne. 1655 held by Courtney.

Fabric. Towers 36' x 24' by 35' high. walls 6 1/2 feet. Has no remains of vaults, there are pointed windows of cut limestone.

Fitzgerald "The Black Knight" was the reputed builder, or owner, of the Castle according to local tradition and his ghost is credited by the present owner of the castle to appear every seven years, though the village folk claim the ghost of the "Black Knight" as a permanent tenant — but if so, why the vicious dog to protect the apples in the adjoining orchard?

The castle is semi-detached from the modern residence of the owner. Even if we rule out the superstitious and forget that the ghost is due to appear again in 1947, the old ruins and surroundings, when the shades of night turn out the innumerable Owls from their ancient and overcrowded crevices in the castle top must have an infernal effect on the nervous and give a weird feeling to even the brave, by the way one old <sup>white stuffed</sup> Owl adorns the parlour of the owner, it died from old age, some say the ghost killed it. The old ruins are nicely located on elevated ground overlooking the "Banohé" — or "Deel" — river and close to the main Newcastlewest, Kilmee road. It is within a few hundred yards of the village, and Ancient Church of Castlemahon, and three miles from Newcastlewest town. Inspection is allowed by the owner — Mr Raleigh — but beware of the dog?

Ralph Lucas — Surveyor.

28/8/44

"CASTLE MAHON CASTLE"

MAHOONAGH PARISH. GLENQUIN BARONY.  
CO LIMERICK.

4

Ref. SM/MMC

Dear Sir

In a resurvey of Mahoonagh Parish in quest of the information you require re the curious circular building, with a high conical roof of stone which "Lewis V 336," describes as a strong fortress erected about 1490 by the Fitzgeralds.

The nearest approach to "Lewis's" description is "Castle Mahon Castle," and in my report on the latter — which you have received — you will please note I qualified a brief description of the Ancient Castle by stating that a vicious dog made a detailed examination impossible. My latest visit induced a mutual friend to bring about an introduction to the Castle owner, (Mr Raleigh) and through him a reconciliation with his dog.

I found the Castle to measure about  $36 \times 24$  by  $140$  high. At south west angle is located the curious circular building which may answer "Lewis's" description of part — but not the entire structure. This circular tower — or Annece — would measure  $9$  in diameter, the conical stone roof is still intact, the interior walls show what resembles outline drawings, it has a small central circular moulding on the interior of the cone shaped roof, the west wall is broken where a window must have been, the floor is two feet above ground level <sup>and has</sup> ~~with~~ a small entrance door. The Castle itself is square though the interior East Angle <sup>is</sup> rounded, the only windows showing are the two in the western wall, where two chimneys are also located, a couple of port, or shot holes show in the East wall, there are no stairs, floors, roof, or cellars, and the entire building is so wynnalled as to render discovery of any other features impossible. Zinc covered cow and pig sheds occupy most of the interior of the Castle floor space.

"Mahoonagh Parish" Glenquin Barony

Co. Limerick.

"ST. JOHN'S HOLY WELL" (2)

"St John's Holy Well," off the main Mahoonagh  
Kilneedy road, on the boundary of Bloncagh  
and Mahoonagh Parishes. It is in good  
order and neat condition, with an elaborate  
statue, cement walls, walks, and steps, and  
an artistic gate. Elm tree is growing in  
well and overhangs the large circular  
pond, from which flows a rapid stream.

Date of the Pilgrimage was 29<sup>th</sup> August.  
Now changed to June 24<sup>th</sup>.

No miracles are claimed, no emblems  
of Thanksgiving, or piety are displayed  
around the "Well." It is given on

O.S. map as "Tobai".

Note I regret not leaving of the  
presence of this "Holy Well" before completing  
the "Mahoonagh Parish Forms."

R. Lucas. Surveyor.

$\frac{18}{8}$   
44

"Makoonagh Parish," Glenguen Barony  
Co. Limerick

Ref SM/M/M/C

(B)

In my search for Castle answering description of  
Your requirements I came across "Leston's Castle"  
just inside the Glencagh Parish boundary  
This small square castle is incorporated  
and forms part of Leston's farmyard, and  
acts as one of the cowsheds, It has no  
features of note, or no resemblance to Lewis's description.

In an inaccessible spot a quarter mile to the  
East is the ancient church and two earthen  
Forts of "Clonclay", East Gable of church is gone  
West door round headed, and neatly arched  
with cut limestone, door surroundings partly  
down, West angle gone, supposed to have an  
"Ogham Stone" behind which money was found.  
Measures  $32 \times 24$  by  $12$ " high. Church and  
surroundings overgrown, No burials for  
300 years, and no visible tombstones.

Note The above church & castle were probably  
surveyed by another, and I consider a further  
description unnecessary.

R. Lucas  
28/8/44

Mahonagh Parish" Glenquin Barony, Co. Limerick

"MAYNE ABBEY OR FORTRESS"

Ref SM/MM.C

6

"Mayne" located on the Castle Mahon, Kilmeeady road within one mile of the latter village.

I was shown over the ancient site by its present owner and found no trace of any ruins, the withered grass - due to an underground stone foundation - shows an extensive - if undefined outline. From the owner I could get no information as to its history and no other local could fill the historic gap, which Mr Downey confessed his ignorance, so I had to fall back on the Library where

"Westropp" 369 (45) says "Mayne was remembered recently, a modern house being on the site, and was a reputed Templary; an appanage of Kearsnam Abbey, surrendered 1227 to White Knight, was compelled to transfer Mayne to Earl of Desmond 1583, nothing but the stonewalls remain.

In 1600 Garrett Fitz Nicholas - the nearest rebel to Askeaton was haunted and hunted by Sir F. Berkeley who took the castle of Mayne and all rebel corn.

Fabric - the remains of the old fortifications at the manor of Mayne were turned into a barracks before 1827."

It appears that the barracks were later pulled down and the stones used to build the very good modern building and extensive out-offices and walls which now stand on the ancient site. The owner (Mr Downey) told me that the ghost of the "White Knight" of "Mayne" never troubles his family or himself - so unlike his counterpart - or brother - the "Black Knight" who haunts the ancient nearby Castle Mahon.

Inspection of the site is welcomed by Mr Downey. - but there is nothing to inspect or describe.

Ralph Lucas. Surveyor.  
28  
44

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Castle Mahon PARISH Mahoonagh 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 Bunoke River Nearest point to town (distance) Flows through Castle Mahon  
(Tributary of Deel)

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Some Salmon, good supply of small Trout

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 8 lbs Sea trout — Brown trout Less than 1 lb

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon March, April, May Sea trout — Brown trout May to August

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon "Jack Scott", "Lemon & Silver Grey", "Black Doctor", "Orange Grouse", "Wilkinson", "Jungle Cock"

Sea trout —

Brown trout "Brown Rail", "Purple & Silver Rail", "Olive Dun", "Orange Grouse", "Black Doctor"

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

"Entirely Free"

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

"Entirely Free"

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Newcastlewest - 3 Miles

Local Angling Club Yes, Newcastlewest branch Membership Fee —

Secretary (and Address) D. Moylan, Newcastlewest P.O.



SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

*None.*

Kinds of fish to be caught :

*None.*

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

*None.*

Bait available locally ? *None* Fishing tackle ? *None*

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

GOLFING

Name of Club *None* No. of holes *None.*

Situation and brief description of course :

*None.*

Name of Professional *None.*

Is there a clubhouse on course ? *None.* Licensed ? *—*

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

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Battle Mahon PARISH Mahoonagh COUNTY Limerick

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Gleohanahiska & Ethernagh Streams Nearest point to town (distance) 1/2 mile & less

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Trout

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Rarely caught Sea trout — Brown trout 1/4 lb. — and less.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon — Sea trout — Brown trout May to August.

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon —

Sea trout —

Brown trout "Brown, Purple, & Silver Rail", "Olive Dun", "Rise Grouse", etc

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

"Entirely Free"

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

"No Preserved Stretches"

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None needed.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick.

Local Angling Club Newcastlewest Membership Fee —

Secretary D. Maylan P.O.

DATE August 25<sup>th</sup> 1944

(Signed) Raeph Lucas.

Surveyor.

Please note. The above streams are tributaries of 'Dool'

**RACING**

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year..... *None*  
Under which rules?..... *None*  
Situation of course..... *None*

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds *Adare & Looom Hounds occasionally break in to Parish*  
Harriers.....  
Beagles .....

**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 :

*Some Pheasants and wild Duck scattered over the Parish  
few Rabbits & Pidgeon, with a sprinkling of snipe, Plover  
& curlew.  
Shooting is bad in above Parish.*

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

*Not worth preserving, or asking the necessary permission  
for the scattered game or wildfowl the farmers lands stock.*

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

**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

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

**ROWING AND SAILING**

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

*None.*

## GAMES AND RECREATIONS

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following :  
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football ..... *None.*

Hurling *Castle Mahon - Field half mile from village*

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

Soccer ..... *None.*

Rugby ..... *None.*

Cricket ..... *None.*

Hockey ..... *None.*

Bowls ..... *None.*

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

Lawn Tennis ..... *None.* Kinds of courts *None*

Croquet ..... *None.*

Billiards ..... *None.*

Badminton ..... *None.*

Table Tennis ..... *None.*

Bridge Club ..... *None.*

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

*Dancing in M<sup>c</sup>Enery's Hall, Castle Mahon, and Hurling  
are the only games of the Parish.*

## ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club ..... *None.* Events held under rules of *None.*

do. ....

## ANNUAL EVENTS

Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.)  
in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

*Yearly Procession of Blessed* ..... Promoters .....  
*Sacrament* ..... *The Catholic Clergy*

*An occasional G. A. A. Hurling* ..... *The G. A. A.*

.....

.....

.....

DATE *August 21<sup>st</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 Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Castle Mahon PARISH Mahoonagh COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 70

*Castle Mahon is located 3 miles due East of Newcastlewest. It is a fairly neat village with a small type of eighteen houses - about half are thatched. It's very fine central co-operative creamery is one of the best in Limerick. From the creamery pump the village water supply is obtained, and the creamery's tractor helps the farmers. The Deel's tributary which flows through the village is reputed good for fishing. Peohanagh - the other Parish village lies midway between Castle Mahon & Dromedloghas, it is a neat village with a letter office 2 Pubs. a R.C. Church, Freebury, School, and a few other houses.*

Is there a Town Hall? NONE. Location                     

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

*The only Recreation Ground is the Hurling field.  
It has no Parks or Gardens.*

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

*There are no water supply or sewerage systems in Castle Mahon  
The village supply is got from the nearby co-operative creamery.  
Because of lack of water the sewerage is necessarily primitive.*

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

Nearest station Newcastlewest Distance 3 Miles Bus? None.  
Public lighting by—Electricity? E. S. B. Gas? None.

**DANCING**

Dance hall Yes Proprietor Mr M<sup>c</sup> Enery  
ADDRESS → Castle Mahon,  
Newcastlewest.

**CINEMAS AND THEATRES**

Cinemas None Pictures shown None.  
(nights)  
Theatre None. Kind of shows None.  
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

**LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries..... *County Council Library in School*

Private Lending Libraries..... *None*

**CHURCHES AND SERVICES**

Church *Castlemahon A.C.* Services (Sundays) *9.30 & 11.30 A.M.*  
*Foohanagh A.C.* *10.30 A.M.*

**POSTAL FACILITIES**

**LETTER OFFICE ONLY IN FECHANAGH VILLAGE.**

Location of Post Office..... *In centre of castle mahon village.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)..... *All Three in Castle Mahon.*

**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..... *Bathing available in "Deel River"*

**SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.**

Social Clubs..... *None.*

Cultural Societies..... *None.*

**INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS**

Industries..... *There is a very fine Co-operative Creamery in  
Castle Mahon village, with Poultry farm attached.*

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

*None.*

**PUBLIC MONUMENTS**

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

*None.*

**IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

*Castle Mahon R.C. Church small, low, cruciform, Gothic,  
Three Galleries, Altar and Rails its worst  
feature - otherwise neat and nicely seated  
Paters Hartigan & Conway buried in Church grounds  
Feohanagh, R.C. Church very neat in every respect*

**SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES**

*Castle Mahon N.S. A fairly large, rather dark looking, four  
Teacher School.  
Feohanagh N.S. A rather neat Three Teacher School.*

**HOSPITALS**

*Nearest Croom about 17 miles*

**FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY**

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

**GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS**

*None.*

**CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :**

Taxis ..... *None.*

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

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

Bicycles..... *None.*

Caravans ..... *None.*

Horses..... *None.*

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *All over Parish, "Free"* Landowner.....

Local Improvements Committee..... *None*

Secretary..... *None*

DATE *August 21<sup>st</sup> 1944*

(Signed) *Ralph Lucas*

Surveyor.



# ACCOMMODATION

PARISH *Mahoonagh.*

BARONY *Glenquin*

COUNTY *Limerick*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Castle Mahon.*

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<i>None.</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<p><i>There is no Accommodation of any kind in Mahoonagh Parish.</i></p> <p><i>In the village of Feohanagh there are two licensed houses.</i></p> <p><i>There are three in Castle Mahon.</i></p> <p><i>Above are the two small villages of the Parish</i></p> <p><i>Populations — Feohanagh — 25</i></p> <p><i>Castle Mahon — 70</i></p>	<i>None.</i>
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<i>None.</i>							

DATE *August 21<sup>st</sup> 1944.*

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(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 Historic Sites etc.*

## 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.

*Michael Scanlan the author of "Jackets' green"  
and "Felons of our land" was ~~born~~ Born  
in Castle Mahon village. The house is located  
west side of Post Office. He composed his  
poems in America.*

*George O'Callaghan the one time distinguished  
National Teacher's President is buried in castle  
Mahon cemetery.*

## 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.*