

(Limerick N.E.)

26

FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

[BARONY OF Pubblebrien (fringed with bogha)

TOWN OR VILLAGE..... PARISH Ellanister COUNTY Limerick.....

TOPOGRAPHY

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

From the eastern slope of Dony Hill a fine view may be had of the country to east of Co. Limerick. Between this & Knocklong is a vast plain of rich land famous for its dairying & fattening qualities, and likewise for the raising of blood stock of outstanding stamina.

GEOLOGY

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

Dony Hill, known in ancient times as Dromossil is said to be named after a Firbolg tribe. It is a striking landmark in a flat country and is a natural note of barren rock (limestone). According to local folk lore it was raised from the neighbouring lake, which is about equal to it in extent. About 100 years ago a golden crown was found on one of its slopes.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Ellany Villa, Broom. Situated on the old road from Bereora to Broom via Ellanister. A picturesque Georgian residence. Owned Capt Hugh St. Finch, in whose family it has been since 1755, in which year the house was then in being. There is a very nice collection of Waterford glass & old Irish Silver. No library. Very fine gardens attached. House is set in a picturesque parkland with very fine trees. The place is not open to public. Was formerly known as KILDONNELL.

Ellanister House. Was a fine Georgian House with a ghost. Was the home of the Cantillon family who left it many years ago. The ghost was seen by successive occupiers. The house was pulled down a short time ago and materials sold as scrap. With it went the ghost.

ANTIQUITIES

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

Manistér (Manistér an Aonach) Abbey. Durlough O'Brien, King of Desmond, in the midst of a fierce battle with the Danes promised to build a house in honour of the Mother of God if he gained the day. He was successful & so in fulfillment of his promise, Manistér Abbey was built between the years 1148 & 51. It was a daughter of the Abbey of Clairvaux, founded 1115, which was in its turn a daughter of the Abbey at Cîteaux or Cistercium, founded 1098. It recognised its descent from Clairvaux by paying an annual subscription. In 1174 Dorat was Abbot & he & his successors were members of the Parliament. King John confirmed it in its possessions in 1185 & granted it a further charter, when King, in 1211. Henry III granted it & its daughter Holy Cross (Zipporah) protection. In John's time it possessed lands stretching to Knocklong in east Limerick. The Abbey stands on the left bank of the Lanesque and must be one of the largest ruins of its kind in this county. The workmanship was very beautiful & there are many features worth noting. It had a wonderful vaulted chancel, 27 ft square, with a lofty window (about 20 ft) of three lights, which with the chancel roof collapsed about 20 years ago. The choir was 54' x 27' & nave about 90' x 27'. High up in screen wall (which is of much later construction) is a pretty trifoliate headed window. Underneath is a low, pointed door. The arches to aisles, of which there were four at either side are of plain sandstone & painted. The windows of the upper story are round headed & in good condition. Two windows (over wide main door also round headed) in west gable are of very lovely design & workmanship and in excellent repair. They are side by side & patterns are combined, both inside & out. Round headed & widely splayed. The drip-stones are in one continuous line.

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

Antiep:- Manister Abbey I

The archway to N & S transepts were very lofty but of plain design & pointed. These arches together with two each of upper arches to N & S aisles were closed up at the same time perhaps that screen walls built as the case of similar masonry. The belfry was supported by four well carved & moulded pillars with bases & capitals & these also formed sides of arches to transepts. See picture of detail of north pillar of belfry. The details of the pillars are late Romanesque work.

The following legend is related:- After the massacre of the monks by the English forces in 1579, the one & only survivor, an aged monk, came alone on the eve of the Assumption to the deserted house, and, as he swept the church filled with light and the slain monks arose & sang the vesper. He joined fervently, but when he uncovered his face & looked, he only saw the mangled bodies & bloody chancel.

The assembly or aenach from which the abbey took its name was the ancient aenach Cairbre or Culi. The site of aenach Cairbre was claimed as one of the Royal residences by the King of Leinster in the 10th century & most likely this was the fort of RATHMORE on the right bank of the river & only about 200 yards north from Abbey. The Abbey is on the lands of Mr P. Barron, & under the care of the Comm. of Public Works. In very good condition but inside of Abbey is covered with nettles about 6 ft high, which prevent the closer examination of many of the details of chancel & choir.

Antiquities - Manister Abbey II

Beside the main building is the former Chaptel House 62 x 22 feet. In eastern gable were three tall lights. One nearest gospel side was built up. The centre one was removed and a window with limestone gables, cross bar & double lights substituted. The third is in its original state. The entire E. gable stands but only portions of N & S walls remain. All the windows & doors (with exception of those in nave wall, which were of limestone) throughout the Abbey & outside buildings were of sandstone. There is a large squint or peep hole in the later wall which filled up S. transept arch.

Close by the river are the remnants of an out building on which a bell was supposed to have been. This bell would ring when ever a fish got caught in the nets in river, to which it was connected by a rope.

Corrabul (corruption of Cobally) There was also an early church at CORRABUL, CROOM but there is no trace of it now & site has been lost.

Kildomell. On the lands of Capt H. H. Finch at Claryville, are the remains of an early church of coarse masonry. Portion of foundations appear to be circular but nothing is known of its history.

Joy Hill OR Dromasil. Here was situated an early church also but its site has long been forgotten & nothing is known of it except that it was a sort of chapel-of-ease for a family of O'Bain who lived at the castle of Dromasil which is also forgotten. A female member of this family married a Stephen O'BARRANBOY CASTLE which was mentioned in ADARE PARISH & which see.

Early churches.

KILLONAHAN. The foundations & a few feet of walls remain in the old burial ground of this name, on a narrow highway between Patricswell & Alston. Very large irregular stones were used in the building. It was dedicated to, if not founded by, a St Onca, who was thrice removed from another Onca who was baptised by St Patrick. Killonahan was an ancient parish.

KILLEENOGHTY. The western wall & some of side walls remain in an old burial ground near Alston, and on the northern slope of Doy Hill. It is believed to have got its name from the fact that a saint was slain beside it while the ground was under snow and so the present name is a corruption of the Irish words for "church of the wine coloured snow" as the saint's blood stained the snow the colour of wine.

(bill for measts)

Ballycaban. The present unroofed, early 19th century church is on the site of an early parish church. It is believed to have dated from 13th century. In old burial ground on the lands of Mr A. Mc Namara, Ballycaban, Castle, Coom.

KNOCKNAGRANSHY. On the lands of Mr Ed. Lane, Knocknagrandy, Manister. A small building completely ruinous, in centre of a number of irregular earthworks & mounds. Underneath the foundation is a vault with human bones. Vault, door of which is now gone, is said to have been the burial place of an old family named WEBB. A large lintel 6'x3'x6" beside fallen masonry. Site is in a great mess as cattle will access to it.

Castles.

RATHMORE CASTLE. Adjoining the farm yard of Mrs. ab. Hartigan, Rathmore, Broom. Beside the fort of Aenail baibre, which was claimed by King of Cashel in 10th century. In 1148 Durlough O'Brien defeated the Danes at Rathmore & built Manister Abbey in gratitude, in pursuance of a promise. It is believed that the castle was built by the Earl of Desmond in 1306 but many of the details seen much later. In 1579 it was held by Irish under Sir John of Desmond & Spaniards & taken by Sir Nicholas Malby. It had many apartments & was strongly fortified for defence. After the battle in 1579 it was granted by Earl of Desmond to Maurice Shikan for 99 years at a rent of one peppercorn. In 1600 it was surrendered to ^{CAREW.} by the supporters of the Surgen Earl. Local tradition says it was built by the Danes & destroyed by Cromwell, but the latter was not nearer than Kilbenny in east Limerick. The castle which is a peel tower about 30 feet square & 50 high is in reasonably good repair. Spiral stairs, broken in parts, but yet capable of being used is in E. angle. It had the usual guard room. Throughout are many of the features of the 15th century type of castle. Walls are about 6' thick. Windows square. Lower storey & 3rd were more vaulted. In sight of no car.

Antiqs. V

Ballycane Castle. Adjoining the residence of Mr & Mrs Namara, Ballycane, Co. Wick. It is a squareish keep about 40 ft high & of three stories. The ground floor was strongly vaulted & is at present being used as a store house by owner. Walls are about 4 ft thick in places & at other spots is narrower. Castle about 30 x 20 ft. Entire building is covered with ivy. Believed to have been an O'grady castle & built in 1400. From late 13th century a family named Berkeley had associations with the place & this continued up to about middle of 17th century when place was sold to a man named Peacocke in whose family it remained for some time. In turn it was sold to a family named Scurlan, members of which family were sea-going men. This latter family sold in due course to present owner - Mr Andrew McNamara. One lived Scurlan who was executed for his part in the death of Ellen Hanley (Colleen Bawn). The lofted out house where he was discovered under some straw is still standing. Ellen Hanley was the niece or grand-daughter of a local shoe-maker & it was while holidaying there she met ~~the~~ Scurlan. She was of exceedingly great beauty & charm. Castle is in good repair but in receipt of no use other than that given by Mr & Mrs Namara who is interested in its preservation.

Dromaril or Day Hill. There was an O'Brien castle here but its site has long been forgotten.

Antiquities. VI.

Bromlech. At base of R. C. Church at Manister entirely overgrown with bushes & weeds are remains of what I have been told is a Bromlech

Forts, Raths, etc.: Throughout Co. Faust are a number of Raths but are of no importance except for the one at Rathmore, which in 10th century was claimed as a Royal Residence by the King of Leinster, and adjacent to which was fought the first battle between Durlough O'Brien & the Danes, in the midst of which he vowed to build a house to Blessed Virgin if he gained the day. He was victorious & the Abbey was built between 1148 (when battle took place) and 1151.

On the lands of Mr. Edw. Lane at Knocknagranly or Yellowtown are a number of irregular earthworks or mounds, in centre of which is the ruined early church of KNOCKNAGRANSHY.

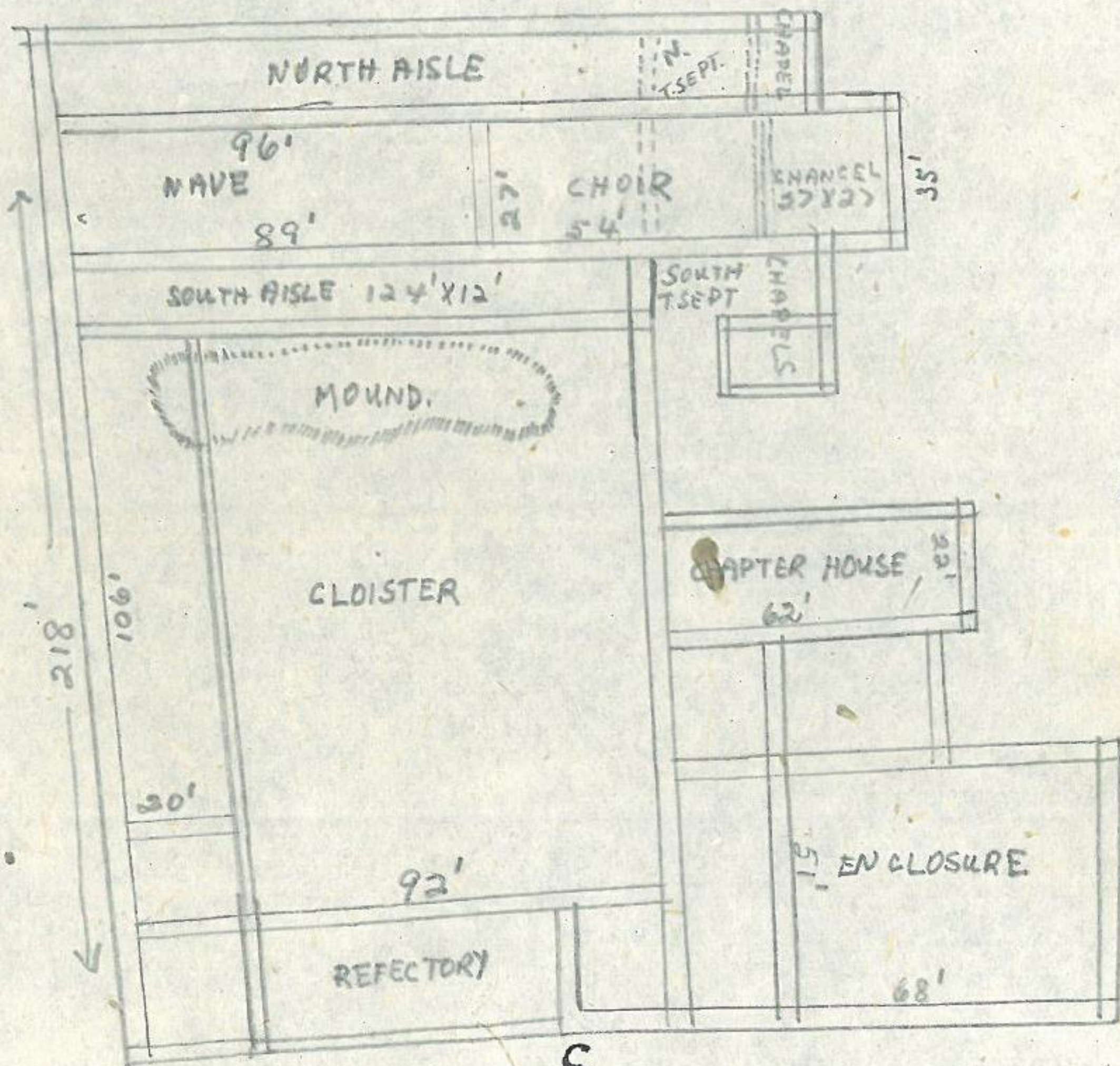
M.

PLAN OF MANISTER ABBEY,
CO. LIMERICK

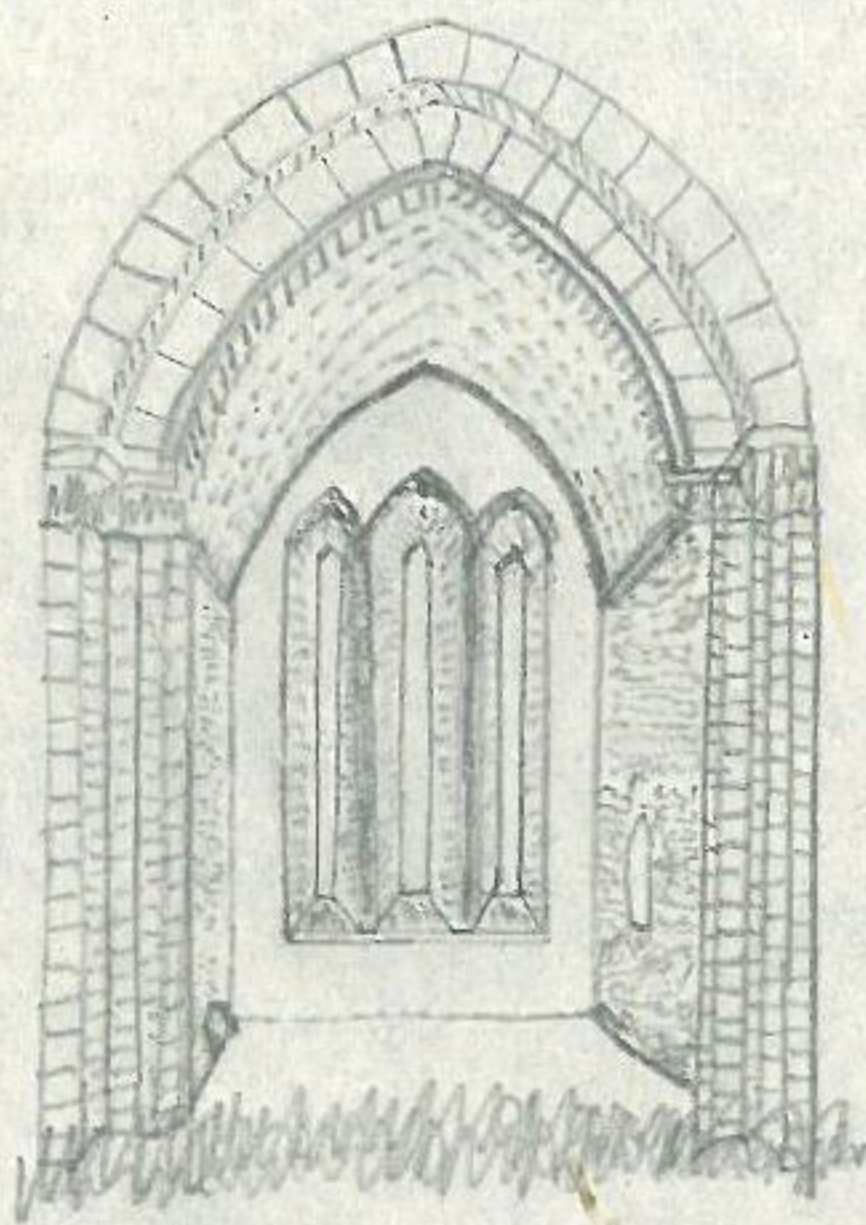
— N.

W.

E.



S.



CHANCEL AND
EAST WINDOW
PRIOR TO COLLAPSE.
MANISTER ABBEY.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Pubblebrien (linked with Broom)

TOWN OR VILLAGE / PARISH Manister COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population /

The parish of Manister lies east of the village of Broom. In ancient times it was a place of much importance on account of the Cistercian Abbey nearby. It is a mil dairying centre & land is of good limestone quality. The district is watered by the R. Camogue & its tributaries.

Is there a Town Hall? / Location /

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

/

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

/

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Broom Distance 2 miles Bus? At Broom.

Public lighting by—Electricity? / Gas? /

DANCING

Dance hall / Proprietor /

/

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas / Pictures shown (nights) /

/

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

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *R. C. Church* Services (Sundays) *8.30 & 11 A.M.*

Old time all year round.
Protestant Community served by churches at Broom & Kilpeacon
Kilpeacon *12. Noon Official time.*
Broom *do.*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *P.O. at Breora Cross, with 'Phone; M.O., Stamps, etc.*

Business (~~? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone~~) *P.O. for sale of stamps only at Ellanistien Cross.*

BANKING

Banks.....

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores.....

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....

Public Baths?..... Location.....

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....
.....

Private Lending Libraries.....
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.....

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BANKING

Banks.....
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SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....
.....
.....

Photographic Stores.....
.....
.....
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SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....

Public Baths?..... Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs.....

Cultural Societies.....

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries.....

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The R. C. Chapel is a small building, erected in the 1840's. Has no details worthy of mention. In the porch is a small square font with the following inscription:—
"John Hamahan doctor of the Sorbonne got this made in 1756. Pray for him."
He was the pastor of that time.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Mixed National Schools at Ballymartin, Manister.

HOSPITALS

Up to date Hospital in adjoining parish of
Lisnane.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....
.....
Weekly market day..... Half-holiday.....

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

.....
.....
.....

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis.....
.....
.....

Motors (Touring).....
.....
.....

Boats (State type).....
.....
.....

Bicycles.....
.....
.....

Caravans.....
Horses.....
.....
.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Local Improvements Committee.....
Secretary.....

DATE 15.7.43.....

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch

Surveyor.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

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

Kinds of fish to be caught :

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

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

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

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

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

~~.....~~

GOLFING

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

Situation and brief description of course :

The nearest course at Ballyclough, Limerick

.....
.....

Name of Professional.....

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

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

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

Puabliúirín (granted with boshma)

BARONY OF *boshma*

TOWN OR VILLAGE */* PARISH *ellanistér* COUNTY *Limerick*

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE *Nagua* (or *Doy Hill Lake*) Nearest point to town (distance) *2* in Parish

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Pike in abundance, ~~carp~~ carp, Roach.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon */* Sea trout */* Brown trout */*

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon */* Sea trout */* Brown trout */*

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon */*
Sea trout */*
Brown trout */*

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

Fishing on lake entirely free.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The lake which would be about 3 acres in extent is situated east of Doy Hill. The fishing for pike, etc is entirely free.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Local Angling Club */* Membership Fee */*

Secretary */*

DATE *15. 7. 43.*

(Signed)

P. J. Quinn
Surveyor.

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 *County Limerick Hunt.*

Harriers *Broom Harriers; Limerick 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 :

good rough shooting to be had through the parish. Some pheasant & woodcock, & snipe in abundance. W. geese & such are sometimes to be found in marshlands about.

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

.....
.....
.....

Shooting Club..... Secy.....

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..... /

Handball..... *yes* Handball alley? *yes. At ellanisle's cross.*

Soccer..... /

Rugby..... /

Cricket..... /

Hockey..... /

Bowls..... /

Bowling (on public roads)..... /

Lawn Tennis..... / Kinds of courts..... /

Croquet..... /

Billiards..... /

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.

..... Promoters.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

DATE *15. 7. 43.*

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

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH.. *Manister*

BARONY. *Pubblebrien*

COUNTY. *Limerick*

TOWN OR VILLAGE

(fringed with bushes)

Remarks

<u>HOTELS</u>	No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lavs.	No. Public Rooms	Licensed	Remarks
<i>None</i>						
<u>Guest or Boarding Houses</u>						
<i>None</i>						

A. J. Regan. (Surveyor)

15. 7. 43.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

In and around Manister many battles took place in ancient times and the following three are certainly worthy of mention. Durlough O'Brien, King of Thomond, in the midst of a fierce & bloody battle with the Danes at Rathmore promised to build a Monastery dedicated to the Blessed Virgin if he gained the day. In fulfillment he built Manister Abbey. The second battle took place in July 1309 when Brian, King of Thomond defeated his deposed uncle Durlough, who was helped by Ganett, Earl of Desmond & other Norman chiefs. Durlough & Desmond utterly routed took refuge in the Abbey but Brian & his supporters

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.

stormed the place & took them captive to blame & then held them till a huge ransom was paid. The third battle took place in 1579 between Sir John of Desmond & the Spaniards on one side & the English under Sir Nicholas Malby on the other. The English gained a complete victory and after gathering much arms, attacked the Abbey (with their cannon) which was full of refugees from rebel army. Finally they burst in & put to death everyone they found, including the Abbot & about 40 monks. The Abbot was beheaded on the steps of the High Altar. This battle took place in April, 1579. An Abbey site a fair used to be held in very early times & from it the Abbey got its name.

→ the slab did not belong originally to well. It is approached by a passage which leads to a number of farm houses. The well & surroundings are in good condition. Known

as "TOBERLOUGHTER."

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.

On the lands of Mr Edward Lane, Knocknaganshy (or Yellastown) Manister is a well with a slight sulphur content. Beside it is a clear spring well. Over the former is a cone shaped erection with small opening at foot & on its side is a slab with the following inscription.

FONT
THIS WAS ERECT^d BY
JAMES KEATING IN
THE YEAR OF OUR
LORD 1791
THAT LIVED IN GRANGE HILL
PRAY FOR HIM

No curative properties are now attributed to well. The word font is inserted over other lettering just as it appears here. In my opinion the word was

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.

Up to a few years ago pilgrimages ^{were} made to the Abbey ruins at Clonister, under the leadership of the Parish Priest and religious services were held in ruins. These have now been discontinued. For legend see "Clonister Abbey" under Antiquities section.

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch
Surveyor.

DATE..... 15. 7. 43.....