

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Strand PARISH Monagea COUNTY Limerick

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The best Parish views can be got from top of the mountain ridge which runs to the south of Strand and Barnagh. The peaks of Rathcahill (954) should be the selected viewpoint. On a clear day the entire mountain ridges which encircle the Limerick plane can be clearly surveyed. The continuity of the encirclement looks broken or jagged beyond Dromcollogher, but gradually re-appears again on the foothills of "The Galtees" from whence the circle continues unbroken via "Keepes", "Bountinna", across the Shannon to "Moynussa" to where it finishes at Woodcock Hill in Coblar. Knockfeerina & Barronohes look like sentinels on the vast Limerick plane. Towns, villages, ancient castles, spires & farmsteads dot the plane to where the dim horizon obliterates the view.

### GEOLOGY

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

The only unusual geological feature is the sudden change of stone caused by the line of mountains. The parish is three quarters limestone plane, and one quarter sandstone mountain. While there are the usual mountain ravines, caused by the floods of centuries, there are no caves or eskers. The artificial railway tunnel on top of Barnagh hill is the demarcation line between Monagea and Templeglantine parishes. Sod banks and whitethorn hedges form the division fences between the farms & fields. Surface stone is very scarce. The soil adapts itself more to dairying than tillage. No bogs exist.

### 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 are no Mansions, castles, or large Estates of an imposing character in the Parish of Monagea.

## 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.

### ANCIENT CHURCH "MONAGEA"

"Westropp" 167(36) describes it as locally "Templenamona" Church measures  $87' \times 27\frac{1}{2}'$ . East window has two cinquefoil headed lights with a square hood and round splay arch. Shaft was broken before 1840. North wall is broken. It had near the middle an ogee headed light and an oblong one further to the East. In the South is a window like the East, but a flat splay arch and a defaced door. The East end had two small slits. Monagea was traditionally a templary.

Description of above old church to day would be a repetition of "Westropp" with the addendum that no west Gable exists - a cement topped wall marks the foundation where it once was. There are three slabs inset in the old church wall and the interior floor is covered with tombstones. Like the castle Mahon old church (Mahoonagh Parish) Monagea has also a huge pile of skulls, and bones stacked up in an alcove or window and scattered on the floor. It would be a cherished spot for the morbid minded, or the medical student in quest of material to construct his "Skeleton". A couple of mausoleums surround the ancient church with several good tombstones - including one to Rev Jas Raleigh. The cemetery and approaches are kept in splendid condition.

### "GLENMORE" OR "STRAND" OLD CHURCH.

(2) "Westropp" 178(44) was  $67' \times 18\frac{1}{2}'$  and entirely defaced in 1840. The inner South wall had a late flat arch of hammered gritstone and gaps of two windows, the west end was featureless and the East and North had fallen in the great gale of 1839. It was surrounded by a strong mound and ditch which are well preserved to the west, but barely traceable elsewhere.

The only difference between "Westropp's" description then and now would be - The mound and ditch are gone, west Gable and South wall are still standing, other walls are gone. The ruins are in a very decayed and neglected condition. There is no cemetery attached, or no history is available from the oldest local people, or the Priest.

Neither of above churches are in charge of Office of Public Works.  
(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Strand PARISH Monagea 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 No Lake or River Nearest point to town (distance) Flows through Parish  
to Parnagh Stream - a Tributary of the Deel.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:  
Small Trout

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon — Sea trout — Brown trout less than 4 lb

#### BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon — Sea trout — Brown trout April to August

#### SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon —  
Sea trout —  
Brown trout All sorts - and worms

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

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

The above stream together with all the other tributaries of the Deel river can be fished from Newcastlewest.  
Fee for fishing the Deel & its tributaries by the method by boat to Newcastlewest is £1

Local Angling Club Deel Anglers Association Membership Fee Visitors £1  
Secretary (and Address) D. J. Moylan Esq. Postmaster, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick

**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 in Monagea Parish* 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

**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 ..... *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 :

*There is some Grouse shooting on the mountains from Barnagh to Strand, with a sprinkling of snipe, woodcock, and curlew. There are scattered Pheasants, some Rabbits, Sidgeon & Hens in the Plane from the mountains to Newcastlewest. I would not class Monagee as good for shooting or Angling*

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

*No preserves - none worth preserving*

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

**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 *A Hurling Club in Strand, with a good field north of 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.*

## ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

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

do. .... *None* .....

## 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
<i>Pilgrimage on 15<sup>th</sup> August to "Our Lady's Holywell"</i>	<i>From time immemorial.</i>
<i>Periodical Pilgrimages to "Glashanaffin"</i>	<i>No special Promoters.</i>
<i>Mass Rock, - or valley.</i>	<i>Time honoured custom.</i>
<i>Periodical Hurling matches</i>	<i>No special Promoters.</i>
	<i>G.A. Associations.</i>

DATE *September 2<sup>nd</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 Strand PARISH Monagea COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 54

*Monagea Parish adjoins Newcastlewest, Killeedy, Mahoonagh, Ardagh, and Templeglantine Parishes, with Tournafulla dovetailed in. Its contour is flat to the north, it then undulates to a point, where it shoots abruptly across the steep mountain ridge to the south. It is a rural Parish with only one small village - "Strand". The latter village comprises about 14 houses includes two Pubs, & Post Office, and is 4 1/2 miles distant from Newcastlewest and about the same distance from Tournafulla.*

Is there a Town Hall? None Location None

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

*No Parks or Gardens. There is a good Hurling field near the village of Strand which could - and probably will - be used as a Sport's field, or Recreation Grounds.*

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

*Some scattered Public Pumps, Private Wells, and Streams from the mountains provide a fairly adequate and healthy water supply. The Sewerage problem solves itself in backyards and open fields*

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

Nearest station Newcastlewest & Barnagh Distance 4 1/2 miles Bus? Passes through Barnagh  
*respectively* N. West Side of Parish.

Public lighting by—Electricity? None Gas? NONE

**DANCING**

Dance hall None Proprietor None

**CINEMAS AND THEATRES**

Cinemas None Pictures shown None  
(nights)

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

**LIBRARIES**

Public Libraries *Books supplied by County Council to National School  
Raharagh.*

Private Lending Libraries *None.*

**CHURCHES AND SERVICES**

Church *Raharagh R.C. Church* Services (Sundays) *9 & 11 AM (S.T.)*  
*No C. O. Ireland.*

**POSTAL FACILITIES**

Location of Post Office *In centre of Strand Village*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *M.O. and Telegraph only.  
No Public Telephone Call Office*

**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 *—*



## SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs..... *None.*

Cultural Societies..... *None.*

## INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries..... *The are two creameries (Auxiliaries)*

*One is <sup>BETWEEN</sup> "Rahanagh" & Ballygeel*  
*The other "Garryduff" half way between Newcastlewest*  
*and Barnagh*

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)

*"R. C. Church at Rahanagh" — a good cut stone Gothic building, nave only. Has three doors, Rails, Altar and interior very neat. Built 1839. Tombstone to Rev D. Burton in Chapel Yard. Good entrance gate, with thirty yards of tree ornamented avenue leads from Public road to church. N. School, Ancient Church and graveyard nearby.*

## SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*"Rahanagh N. School," neat 4 Teacher School — the only one in Moragea Parish — it is sandwiched in between Rahanagh R. C. Church, and Ancient Church.*

## HOSPITALS

*Nearest "Croom" — about 20 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.*~~

*J. Riorda, Monagea has a Hackey car for hire.  
W. Lenihan, Barlagh has a Lorry for hire*

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

Bicycles..... *None.*

Caravans..... *None.*

Horses..... *None.*

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *"Free" all over the Parish* Landowner.....  
*plenty of accommodation by*  
*the roadsides and open spaces*

Local Improvements Committee..... *None.*

Secretary..... *None.*

DATE *September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944*

(Signed) *Ralph Lucas*

Surveyor.

# ACCOMMODATION

PARISH Monagea

BARONY Glenquin

COUNTY Limerick

TOWN OR VILLAGE Strand

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<u>None.</u>	<hr/>					<u>There is no Accommodation in Monagea Parish, or Strand village.</u>	<u>None.</u>
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<u>None.</u>	<hr/>						

DATE September 2<sup>nd</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.

*I could not trace any items covered by above headings in the Parish of Monagea.*

## 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.

*The late Canon Begley, Historian author of the "Diocese of Limerick" was born near "Strand" in Monagea Parish. His brother still lives in the ancestral home.*

## 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 of above ever existed in Monagea Parish.*

## 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.

The locality between Barnagh and Rathcahill was reputed to be the "happy hunting ground of the Spirit of Barnagh." Weird and uncanny indeed are the various and varying tales of the frolics and antics of this visible and invisible supernatural. Widespread tradition credits this ghost as a grave and gay one, with a real ~~sense~~ sense of humour. This spirit did not wait until the "bewitching hour of midnight when the churchyards yawn and the graves give up their dead," neither did the cocks crow herald his departure. It was an early riser and a late worker. The autumn twilight found the spirit flitting round the mountains upsetting stacks of hay and corn, upsetting farm carts, harnessing animals to their cars in sheds where the narrow door would not allow an exit unless the wheels were removed, tying animals tails together, and generally behaving as if merriment — not devilment — was the ghost's hobby. Its sudden appearance and vanishing, struck terror into the hearts of night workers and put an end to outdoor meetings of courting couples. The spirit's disappearance from the haunted locality was welcome by all. The legend of the "Spirit of Barnagh" still lives on and time only helps to enhance its tradition.

## CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

"Our Lady's Holy Well" located between Strand and Rathcahill — 4 miles South of Newcastlewest. This is the most noted "well" in Co. Limerick. A circular walled wall surrounds it, and a small open entrance door gives access from the main road. The walled enclosure above the crystal well shows the statues of "Our Lady," St. Joseph & St. Teresa, with a canopy overhead. In the neatly painted iron railing (which encloses the well) one small gate gives access and another exit to people "doing the rounds." The pilgrims walk the circular path in the ornamental treestudded enclosure while reciting the prescribed prayers, afterwards drinking the water. The contents of the "Offerings Box" helps to keep the well and surroundings in a splendid condition. Cures are claimed by the Faithful. August 15<sup>th</sup> is Tattern or Pilgrimage day.

There is another "Our Lady's Well" nearer to Newcastlewest — in Monagea Parish — with no Pilgrimage day.

### "Blashanaffin Mass Glen"

Blashanaffin Mass Glen is located near Rathcahill (½ mile from "Strand"). The altar is cut out of the apex of a triangular ridge having an eastern aspect, nearby is the priest's field at Fissurhan where Dr. Begley lived while on the run, he celebrated mass at Blashanaffin. A Pilgrimage was held there up to 70 years ago. There is talk of a revival.

(Signed)

Ralph Lucas

DATE ~~August~~ September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1944.

Surveyor.