

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF PuBBLE BRIEN,

TOWN OR VILLAGE ellunget PARISH ellunget/ breora COUNTY LIDERICIC

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The Parish of ellunget & breora is made up of very flat country, sparsely wooded. The land is of limestone quality & famous for rich pastures, producing milk etc of excellent quality. Dairying is chief industry.

### GEOLOGY

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



Greenmount stands in a beautifully wooded demesne of some hundreds of acres.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

#### OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

GREENMOUNT, PATRICKSWELL. Situated half mile at Limerick side of Patrickswell. Built during time of Queen Anne, (south front) by the Peacocke family who sold to Francis Green in 1740. This man was accidentally shot in 1781. House was altered to Georgian standards during his lifetime. At a much later date the north front was built. Present owner Mr Francis Green. There are some fine family portraits, some beautiful early Irish silver (potato rings) and 18th century lacquered furniture. This latter is most likely Dutch imitations of the Chinese Art. Fine gardens but not open to public. House also private.



ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, 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.

ellunget is considered to have been a home of the Canons Regular of St Augustin.

MUNGRET ABBEY is situated in ellunget Burial ground two miles west of Limerick. Although present edifice only dates from approximately 15th century, it is generally believed ellunget Abbey was in existence during time of St Patrick and its foundation is attributed to St Nersan. The latter died about 550 & is buried here. The overall length of the building is about 120 feet. At eastern end (about) door on 30 feet wide & at western end somewhat wider. Chancel about 50 x 15 ft Nave 35 x 25 ft, Chancel arch, gone. At western end was a building which must have been the living quarters of the monks & this measures about 20 x 12 feet. At northern angle of this stands a battlemented tower with slit openings. Most of stone & spiral stairs, gone. In east gable of chancel is a "twin" window with pointed arches, well out, at each side of which are stepped buttresses. Door in N. wall was square. Windows throughout were of various sizes but all pointed. The arches were composed of numbers of stones. Ruins, approached by a ~~some~~ passage, 100 yards from main road. Under care of <sup>O.P.W.</sup> Comm. of Public Works. In very good state of preservation. (See pictures)

Beside this abbey is the ruin of an early church probably from 11th century. E. gable & portion of side walls remain. W. gable, gone but <sup>has been</sup> replaced by a modern wall. 14 feet wide inside. Walls 3 feet thick. Very perfect slit window in E. gable about 6 feet high & 8 inches wide. (See picture) In remains of S. wall are two similar windows, which like E. window are widely splayed inside. Under care of <sup>O.P.W.</sup> Comm. of Public Works. The ~~main~~ gable is round headed. ~~of many stones.~~ Could on sheet IV

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



EARLY CHURCH AT MUNGRET.

On the roadside slightly to north of ruins already described is a third ruin which is considered by far the oldest, ~~and possibly dates from~~ <sup>the type of architecture</sup> could be from 8 to 10th century. Measuring approx. 40 x 23 ft, & has very steep, pointed gables. The side walls are ~~close on~~ <sup>about</sup> 15 ft high. In E. gable is a perfect round headed light, widely splayed on inside & measuring about 6 ft x 3 ft inside and about 4 ft x 18 ins outside. The arch was formed of many stones. There also were <sup>2</sup> windows in S. wall but these have been built up. There were probably two. The door ~~was~~ is in the W. & is about 6 ft high, with inclined jambs. About 3 <sup>1/2</sup> ft at bottom & somewhat narrower at the top. The jambs are capped by a huge lintel about 8 ft long and at one part over 1 ft thick. It is under the lands of Mrs Mary Hayes (on roadside) under care of ~~the O. P. W.~~ <sup>the O. P. W.</sup> Public Works. The key is with Mrs Hayes. In excellent condition & inside well kept by Hayes family.

CRECORA CHURCH. In burial ground at Crecora beside R. C. Church. In a very ruined state. Originally dating from about middle of 13th century. Was ded. to SS Peter & Paul. Burned, with Mungret & other churches in 1640. Only W. gable & portion of side walls remain. About 25 ft wide, walls over 4 ft thick. Built of large irregular boulders. In receipt of no care and in bad condition.



## KNOCKNAGALL CHURCH.

The site<sup>in</sup> in Knocknagall burial ground, generally called Lemonfield. Was in two sections nave & chancel, & was dedicated to St Bridgid. Its destruction is attributed to Whiteboys to it is also believed that the burning took place in 1640. The roof was of thatch. Was an ancient parish & church was certainly pre-reformation. Nothing but foundations now remain. Beside Lemonfield Rectory.

CASTLES.

## BALLINVEALLA CASTLE.

Situated about 1 mile west of CRECORA on road to Broom, on lands of Mr James O'Grady, to whose dwelling it is attached. It is probably of late 15th century & is in good repair. 25 x 14 ft outside & 50 ft high & 4 stories. On high ground. Perfect spiral stairs in N. angle. Ground & top floors vaulted. Very large pointed stones project from W. wall. Has narrow slit windows throughout. In W. wall, on 1st & top floors are openings like doors which would give the impression that it was the intention to build on this side at a later date but project was never carried out. Ballinvealla was an O'Brien stronghold.

There was also a castle at CRECORA but there is no trace of it now.



FORTS.

There are very many ring forts in the parish. The fort at GREENHILLS is by far the most important. It lies on a hill overlooking a goodly share of surrounding country. It measures about 135 ft across & is from 12 to 15 feet high. In 1808 or 1818 a golden crown was found in or adjacent to this fort. On lands of Mrs M. Clarke Greenhills, Brecon.

On the lands of Mrs M. Braid, J. Tierney & E. O'Brien all of Doonadoyle are remains of good ~~circles~~ ring forts. On the lands of Jas Butler are two large forts of good repair, side by side, and on lands of Wm McAlone are remnants of two more close to each other. Butler & McAlone are in townland of Shuggera.

There are remains of another fort on lands of Mr J. O'Brien at Ballycummin, of good size.

All the foregoing are within view of each other & within a very short radius.

Throughout parish are remnants of many others.



The following is the story of how the women of ellunget became famous for wisdom:-

A friendly controversy arose between the monks of ellunget & the monks of another Monastery. The subject of the controversy was which of the communities excelled the other in learning. A date was arranged for the "brains test" and ellunget greatly feared defeat. When the appointed day arrived certain of the ellunget monks dressed in women's clothes & went to a stream on the path of the opposing team & pretended to be washing clothes. When the strangers approached the "washerwomen" greeted them kindly in several different tongues, Greek, Latin & Hebrew, amongst others. When asked how they came by such learning the "women" replied they had learned a little from the great monks at the Abbey. On hearing this the strangers made off in great haste leaving the monks at ellunget undisputed victors, as they considered, when the "washerwomen" were so gifted, the ellunget monks must indeed be very many times more learned.



## History of Munnet in Ancient Irish Annals:

- 752 Bodhgal, son of Fergal, Abbot of Munnet killed.
- 762 Ailill, son of Breuaghan, Abbot of Munnet died.
- 820 Abbey plundered & destroyed by Danes.
- 834 " with several churches in Munster plundered by Danes.
- 840 " again wasted by Danes.
- 843 Munnet & other churches burned by Danes.
- 903 Cormac, Archbishop of Cashel & King of Munster, did by his Will bequeth to the Abbey of the Lily of Munnet, three oz of gold, an embroidered vestment and his blessing.



## History of Munget in Ancient Irish Annals:

- 752 Bodhgal, son of Fergal, Abbot of Munget killed.
- 762 Ailill, son of Breuvagan, Abbot of Munget died.
- 820 Abbey plundered & destroyed by Danes.
- 834 " with several churches in Munster plundered by Danes.
- 840 " again wasted by Danes.
- 843 Munget & other churches burned by Danes.
- 903 Cormac, Archbishop of Cashel & King of Munster, died by his Will bequeath to the Abbey of the Lily of Munget, three oz of gold, an embroidered vestment and his blessing.
- 909 Muleastel, abbot of Munget died.
- 993 Muingear, son of Muircadaich, Abbot of Munget died.
- 994 Rebahan son of Dunchak, erenach of Munget died.  
(Erenach was a lay superintendent of the property of the church)
- 1006 Caichen, Abbot of Munget died.
- 1014 Eial, Erenach of Munget died.
- 1028 Art O'Donoghue, Erenach of Munget died.
- 1033 Con O'Mulpatrick, Erenach of Munget & Dupert Ems died.  
(latter place was near Broom)
- 1070 Casey, Abbot of Munget & head of Munster clergy died.
- 1080 Abbey accidentally destroyed by fire.
- 1088 Donal de Loughlin with the force of Ulster destroyed Abbey.
- 1100 Con son of Gillaboy, Abbot of Munget, a wise doctor, head of the clergy of Ireland, died. - (Gillaboy, Gillo or Gilbert was Bishop of Limerick about that time.
1102. On 5th October in this Abbey, died the blessed Mungon O'Morgan principal professor of divinity of Armagh & of all the West of Europe. He was father of St Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh.



History of Munget. contd.

1107 Munget was plundered by Duntoagh O'Brien

1134 A shower of hail fell which destroyed  
everything from Munget to Luimneac; each of  
them the size of an apple.

R.



# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Pubblebrien

TOWN OR VILLAGE ellunget / ~~bucora~~ PARISH ellunget / bucora COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 90 approx.

ellunget Parish lies south & west of Limerick city. Nearest point being under one mile from city boundary. <sup>This is a</sup> Village of about 30 houses, with two up to date led premises, a Post office & some small shops. Situated on <sup>the</sup> road to Fynes Village of ellunget beside which is the cement factory is about 2 1/2 miles from Limerick.

Is there a Town Hall? / Location /

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

/

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

None other than private arrangements.

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Limerick Distance 3 miles Bus? None through village.

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 RAHEEN (R.C.) Services (Sundays) 10 A.M. every Sunday  
CRECORA " { 8 & 10 A.M. 1st Sunday each month.  
{ 9.30 & 12 during operation of Summer time.  
{ 9.00 & 11.30 " " " Winter time

*(Protestant community served by Limeick & Kilkeash. Latter in parish of Jedamore which see)*

**POSTAL FACILITIES**

Location of Post Office P. Offices at ellunget & crecra.  
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) P.O. Stamps etc ~~at ellunget~~ at ellunget.  
P.O. Stamps & telephone at CRECORA.

**BANKING**

Banks.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

**SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES**

Sports Dealers None nearer than Limeick.

Photographic Stores None nearer than Limeick.

**SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS**

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....  
Public Baths?..... Location.....



SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Parish Council.

Cultural Societies

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

At Ellungret is located one of Ireland's premier industries - Wals Cement Limited. Employing up to 100 persons. Blue stone, etc found locally is ideally suited for manufacture of the cement.

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)

Raker Church. Fine building of dressed limestone, quarried locally. Begun 1845, interrupted by famine, completed in 1856 by Rev. W. Casey. Seating for 400 persons.  
Brecon Church. Very pretty building of dressed limestone, also from local quarries. Built in 1864. Seating for 300.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Ellungret College, run by Jesuit Fathers.  
Boys & Girls N. Schools at Ellungret.  
Boys & Girls N. School at Patrickwell (within parish)  
Boys & Girls N. School at Brecon.

HOSPITALS

None in Ellungret Parish. Both the Hospitals at Linnick & Broom are adjacent.



**FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY**

Monthly fairs and markets.....

Weekly market day..... Half-holiday.....

**GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS**

Ballycummin Petrol Station known as "OLYMPIA"  
owned by Mr. D. O'Brien, Ballycummin, Clonsilla.

**CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :**

Taxis.....

Motors (Touring).....

Boats (State type).....

Bicycles.....

Caravans.....

Horses for hire for hunting. Mr. P. Punch, Killeacon,  
Brecora. Mr. Punch also runs a riding school  
for the training of children & adults in art of riding.  
Riding school fees 3/6 per lesson (Usually one hour) special  
terms for seasonal training.

**CAMPING SITES**

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE 4/6/43

(Signed) P. J. Lynch  
Surveyor.



# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF PuBBLE BRIEN.

TOWN OR VILLAGE Elmquist PARISH Elmquist/bucora 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 SHANNON. Nearest point to town (distance) Borders Parish.

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD :

The Shannon at this point is not fished. Property of Shannon Fisheries.

#### 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.

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

Shannon Fisheries, Shannon Weir, Limerick own all the fishing in the Shannon. The above portion of river, with the rough portion, is not fished as the water is not fresh.

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

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

LIMERICK CITY.

Local Angling Club / Membership Fee /

Secretary (and Address) /



SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

[Crossed out section]

Kinds of fish to be caught :

[Crossed out section]

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

[Crossed out section]

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

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

[Crossed out section]

GOLFING

Name of Club LIMERICK GOLF CLUB ..... No. of holes 18 .....

Situation and brief description of course :

*Situated at Ballyclough, Rosbrien, 2 1/2 miles S. of Limerick. One of the best inland courses in Ireland. Amidst pretty scenery and extremely well kept. Do not served by any Bus service.*

Name of Professional Wm. Daly, Residing at Golf club. .....

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

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day 3/6 ..... Per week 10/- ..... 20/- per month.



# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF PuBBLE BRIEN

TOWN OR VILLAGE ellunget PARISH ellunget/Creora COUNTY Limerick

### ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Ballystough R. Nearest point to town (distance) Bordes Parish

#### KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Small Brown trout & Small gulse.

#### AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout Under 1 lb.

#### BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon / Sea trout / Brown trout Fished any time within season.

#### SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon /  
Sea trout /  
Brown trout Standard patterns.

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

Entirely free. River not frequented by anglers.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Limerick City.

Local Angling Club / Membership Fee /

Secretary /

DATE 4/6/43

(Signed) C. D. Lynch

Surveyor.

N.B. For about one mile before this river enters R. Shannon it is generally known as "The Pike" River. R.



**RACING**

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year..... *Four*  
Under which rules?..... *G. N. H. & Rules of Racing Association*  
Situation of course..... *Limerick Race Course (Greenpark) borders Parish.*

**HUNTING**

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds..... *County Limerick Hounds. Master - Mrs. Alexander, Adare.*  
Harriers..... *Limerick Harriers. Meetings every Thursday*  
~~Beagles~~ *during season, at 12. noon. Joint Masters Messrs. D. Shaw & A. Mc Donagh.*

**COURSING**

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

**GREYHOUND RACING**

Name of Company..... *Nearest Track at Limerick City*  
Races on (nights)..... *Friday & Saturday at 8.15 P.M.*

**SHOOTING**

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

*Rough shooting to be had over entire countryside.  
Wild geese & duck plentiful during season along slab-lands  
by Shannon banks. All entirely free.  
Very occasional pheasant to be found.  
~~usually being struck from adjoining areas.~~*

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

~~Zero~~  
.....  
.....  
.....

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

**CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING**

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

**ROWING AND SAILING**

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

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



# 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 ellunget (junior) Grounds at RAHEEN  
Hurling ellunget (junior, senior and minor) do.  
Handball / Handball alley? /  
Soccer /  
Rugby /  
Cricket /  
Hockey constitution club have playing pitch at doordale,  
on lands of Mr P. Jones.  
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 ellunget A.C. 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.

ellunget Sports Promoters ellunget A.C.  
Held usually about mid-July.  
at Sports field at RAHEEN,  
ellunget.

DATE 4/6/43.

(Signed)

P. J. Lynch.  
Surveyor.



BARONY... *Pu ABLE B. RIE N. I. . .*

COUNTY... *L. in. ERICK . . . . .*

TOWN OR VILLAGE... *Munget . . . . .*

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

*4/6/43.*

*A. J. Deziel.*



## HISTORIC SITES

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

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

ellumget ranked as one of the great seats of learning to which thousands of scholars flocked & from which teachers went forth to every country in Europe. According to "Psalter of Cashel" this Monastery had within its walls six churches and contained exclusive of scholars, 1,600 religious, of whom some 500 were teachers, 500 preachers and remainder in the divine offices. Ellumget Abbey is supposed to have been in existence prior to coming of St Patrick as the Saint did not visit Ellumget owing to its highly christianised state until about 448.

## 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 Nersan was born in district of Ellumget & died at Abbey about 550 & lies buried there. Exact spot is not known. Here also lived & died, St Loman.

In the small early church beside Abbey is buried Michael Fitzgerald, born 1797 died 1843. Celebrated Mathematician.

In Brecon burial ground is the grave of Scanlan of "Colleen Bawn" fame. He lived close by at Ballycashane castle. Near Ballycashane lived Ellen Hanley, known as the "Colleen Bawn". Also in Brecon are the graves of seven other persons executed for murder, at the old prison of Duninisk.

## SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

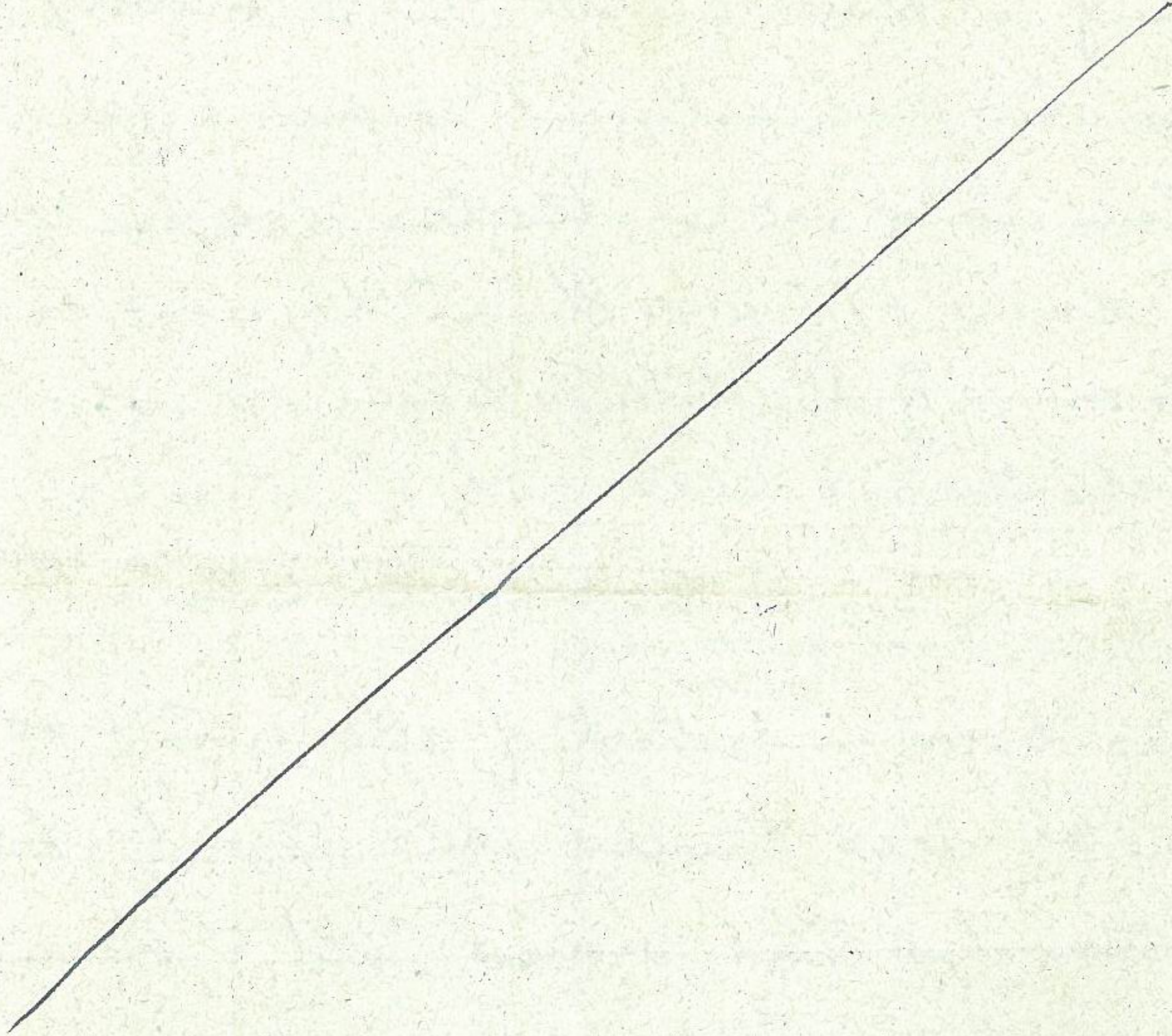
Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?

Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.



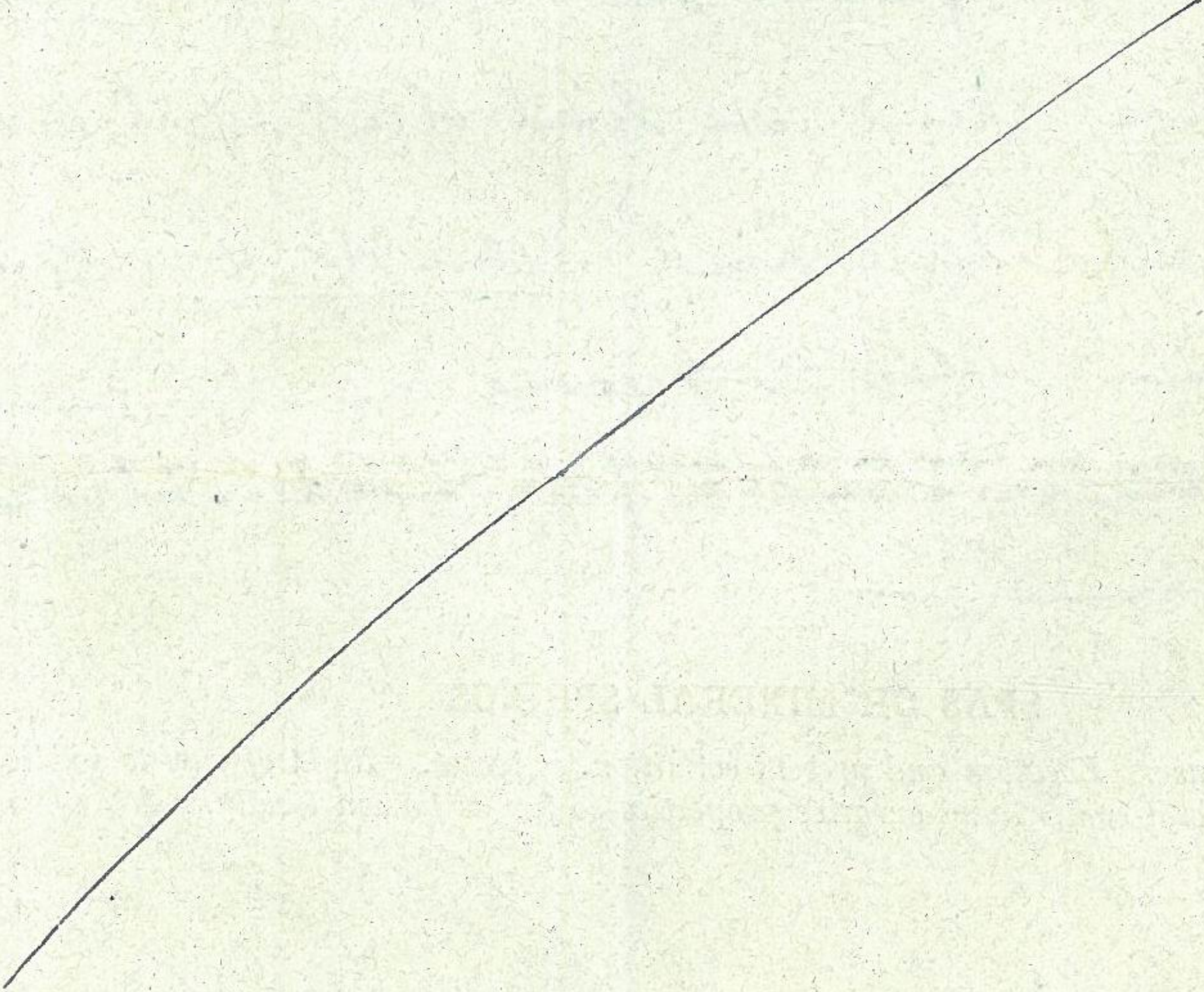
### CURIOSITIES

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.



(Signed)

*P. J. Lynch*

Surveyor.

DATE

*4/6/43*