

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newcastlewest PARISH Newcastlewest COUNTY Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The above town and parish are too flat to admit of any scenic views, neither can beautiful walks or cycle rides be included under its amenities. There is a fine view of the north west encircling hills, but any tourist would much prefer the view down from the hills of Barnagh, Sugar Loaf, or Knockanimpaha, (all outside Newcastlewest Parish) than looking up from the plain. "Glenstar waterfall" is also outside parish.

An unusual engineering feature is the way the railway line was circuitous from Newcastlewest to avoid the direct steep up hill grade to Barnagh, instead it follows the gradual slopes of the foothill.

GEOLOGY

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

There are no unusual geological features in above parish. The rock is exclusively underground limestone which shows in huge boulders in the bed of the Deel river where it passes through the town. The soil favours dairying more than tillage, fruit thrives well, there are no gravel or sand deposits. The fences are sod and whitethorn interwoven with wild woodbine which gives out a fragrant smell in the autumn.

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 now none of above in the Parish. Lord Devon's Estate which included "Diamond Castle" and demesone was sold to the J.L.C. who rent it yearly to residents of Newcastlewest. This is a great boon to the allottees. Above estate was the cause of a lot of agrarian agitation which culminated when a platform erected on the Square and crowded with prominent members of the I. Parliamentary Party was rushed and overturned by an organized mob. It is claimed that Lord Devon, and his son and successor (Courtney) never wicked a tenant, and that their popularity was due to their humane and generous treatment of the tenantry on their vast Limerick estates.

ANTIQUITIES

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

"Westropp, 360. (36) "Newcastlewest" said to have been a Templary, founded 1184. A great square castle, the chief house of the Earl of Desmond, having at each angle a round turret with other rooms and chambers. At the north west angle are a square castle, a high tower - or peel - built for defence. Within walls of castle are many buildings, a great hall, a large vault, an excellent chamber, a garden and a small fish pond, ruined and wasted. Outside are various orchards and gardens of three acres. was burned 1642, held by Colonel Courtney 1691. Fabric - a tower attached 13 century but with late ornaments, walls are 8 to 10 feet thick, the lower story vaulted, it has been greatly modernized, there are in the outworks a square and round turret, the ruins of a chapel lie opposite and some vaults and walls remain between it and the river, also the "Desmond's Hall," - or Banqueting Hall."

The present condition of the old castle would be difficult to describe. It was occupied by the Republicans during the Civil war, (1922) they set it on fire when forced to vacate through the Free State troops bombardment. Since then it is a heap of ruins through which the main outlines - as described by "Westropp" can still be traced. Within the enclosure to the east is located what appears to be an Abbey or chapel with all its ancient features, ^{EXCEPT} ~~and~~ roof intact. Reference books dispute the claim of most of the Abbeys or Castles of Limerick to be classed as "Templars", this Abbey can defy contradiction, on the bottom stones of each side of the South door is chiselled the crest of "The Knights Templars," - The Oak Leaf and Acorn". The Abbey is now used as a general amusement hall for Cinema Dance, Concert, etc, It measures 80' x 30'

Nearby is the "Desmond Hall", with stone steps leading up to the top floor which is used for L. D. F. purposes, there is a mantelpiece in this hall dating back to 1638. These relics of antiquity were purchased in 1931 by Mr Nash who seems to take unusual care of his old patients, he preserved all their features intact throughout the difficult and necessary process of reconstruction and alteration. He will gladly show the antiquities, and relate their history to any interested Tourist.

Entrance is "Free", and easily gained from the Town Square.

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

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH Newcastlewest

BARONY Glenquin

COUNTY Limerick

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newcastlewest

Copy typed & filed

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
"Central Hotel," Bridge St.						Registered	Mrs D. O'Keefe, Bishop St. Mrs Doodle, " "
"Courtney Arms," North Quay. Proprietress - Mrs Curtin.	10 H.G. WATER	3	3 Flush	3	Yes	Registration of this hotel was refused. Mrs Courtney's condemnation of the I.T.A. & I.T.B. was worth listening to. I am sure the lady felt happier when she had opened the "safety valve" on "your humble" without interruption. Diplomacy got the required <u>particulars</u> .	Mrs Scanlan, " " Mrs O'Keefe, The Square - Boarding House & Restaurant Mrs Leslie, Maiden Street - Boarding House & Restaurant. Miss M. Forge, Bridge Street Kennedy's, Church Street.
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
Mrs O'Keefe, The Square.	5	1	1 Flush	1	No	A fairly good looking B. House & Restaurant.	Mrs Dell, Boherbee, - opposite Convent. Miss M. Mahon, Maiden Street.
Mrs Wright, South Quay.	4	None	1 "	1	No.	A homely looking Boarding House.	
Mrs O'Regan, " "	1	None	Back yard DRY CLOSET	None	No	Mostly permanent lodgers, - not homely.	
Mrs Liston, Maiden Street.	3	1	1 Flush	1	No	A small clean lodging house.	
Mrs O'Shea, Boherbee.	1	None	Dry	None	No	Indifferent about lodgers, could not recommend.	
Mr Mulcahy, South Quay	3	None	Dry	one	Yes.	"A rough and ready" lodging house	
Mr Morrissey, Church Street	2	None	Dry	one	Yes.	Comfortable looking.	

DATE September 23rd 1944

(Signed) Ralph Lucas
Surveyor.

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)
Please see additional sheet.

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH Newcastlewest.

BARONY Glenquin.

COUNTY Limerick.

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newcastlewest.

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
<u>Miss M^cDonagh, Church Street.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>None.</u>	<u>1 Dry.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>fairly comfortable looking, but unable to recommend</u>	
<u>Mrs Collins, Church Street.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>None.</u>	<u>1 Dry.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Ditto - unable to recommend.</u>	

DATE September 23rd 1944.

(Signed) Ralph Lucas.
Surveyor.

2 "Ancient Church," Churchtown Cemetary, Newcastlewest.

This Ancient Church is located off the North western suburbs of Newcastle, and its Cemetary is the only one in the Parish.

"Westropp 182 (36) briefly describes the Ruins — dedicated to Saint David 1st March 1410. In good condition 1615."

Following is a description as it appears to day. The interior site measures 32' x 18' feet, with a western Annexe — or porch — measuring 9' x 9'. The western wymantled gable, as well as the Annexe gable are still intact, North wall is broken half way down and gapped, foundations of South wall are still showing above the ground. East gable is completely gone, and on its site there are built in underground Mausoleums, — very much overgrown and neglected. There are no names to show who owned those Mausoleums.

A foundation extension shows at the North East angle of the old Church, which marks the site of another old ruin. The masonry of the Church — and particularly of the Annexe — does not look too ancient, but in its present condition it would be impossible to hold a close examination. The surrounding Cemetary (of

about two acres) is fairly well kept, with a good concrete walk around the interior of the encompassing wall and mound. A gate gives entrance from the adjoining street.

There are some good tombstones, a few Mausoleums, and some flat ancient slabs.

According to "Westropp 182 (36)" St. David's Holy well is supposed to be near this Cemetary. I failed to locate it, or to find any evidence of its existence from the residents of Newcastlewest.

Newcastlewest Parish & Town. Glengun Barony

Addendum re "Deel" Angling.

The Fee of £1 per year applies only to Tourists and visitors. Residents are charged 5/- poor are allowed Free fishing.

The River Deel is 60 miles long, from its source in Cork to its entrance into the Shannon.

It has over 100 estuaries - or small streams.

The three branches which form the Anglers (Deel) Association consist of Newcastlewest, Rathkeale,

Wasteaton, four members from each branch meet periodically and draft regulations etc.

The farmers who own the river banks have signed over their fishery rights to the Association, who clean up, restock - and

exterminate vermin such as Pike etc. Last Year

40,000 Ova were placed in the River, This

Year 100,000 is allotted. I heard good

reports of the fishing.

The Deel cannot compare with the "Feale" for Salmon fishing, though the latter labours

under the double disadvantages of "defective ^{Fish} pass" and a lack of interest and disunity among

its anglers. Briefly man is doing all he can

for the "Deel" and as much as he possibly can against the "Feale" still the latter trues in spite of all opposition.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Glenquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newcastlewest PARISH Newcastlewest COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 2,945

Located on the Limerick, Killarney road, 25 ³/₄ miles from the former city, and 42 miles from the latter town, surrounded by the Parishes of Rathkeale, Ardagh, Monagea, Mahoonagh, and Knockaderry, it is situated on low ground on the banks of the Deel, even the fairly scenic river fails to beautify what could be described as an ugly - though prosperous town. Its tortuous main street, and radiating side ones, detract from its substantial "Square" with attached "Desmond" castle antiquities.

It has 54 Pubs, with the usual assortment of shops, a few offices & private houses.

Is there a Town Hall? None Location None

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

The only "Recreation Grounds" are the Hurling Field, and the Golf Links. There are no Parks or Gardens.

The "Hurling Field" is standard and fair surfaced.

The "Golf Links" is a 9 Hole, well kept course.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

The water is electrically pumped from the Deel river to reservoir, where it is filtered and chlorinated and piped to the town, & into the houses & to public fountains. Pressure adequate.

The Piped Sewerage system is modern and very effective.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station In town Distance — Bus? Yes

Public lighting by—Electricity? E. S. B. Gas? None

DANCING

Dance hall "The Desmond" Proprietor Messrs Nash, The Square

"Carnegie Library" The Limerick County Council

"Gaelic Hall" Mr Thomas O'Corbett

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas "The Desmond Hall" Pictures shown Every night before Emergency
(nights) Twice nightly now

Latchford's Hall Twice nightly

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

Please NOTE - The Desmond Hall is let for Shows, Concerts, Dances & used as Cinema.

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *"The Carnegie Library" - now the property of Limerick C. Council - is still a library, It has no News Room, Top floor is let for Dance purposes etc.*
Private Lending Libraries *None.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church Services (Sundays).....
R.C. Church, Newcastlewest A.M. A.M. NOON
Church of Ireland *8. 10. & 12. (O.T.)*
10 & 12 on alternative
Sundays.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Bishop St - near Square.*
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *All three.*

BANKING

Banks *"The Munster and Leinster" - The Square.*
"The Provincial." "
"The National" "

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *Messrs Phelan, P.J. Cronin, Musgrave.*

Photographic Stores *can be supplied by the Three Chemists*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *None.* Location *Bathing in the Deel river*
Public Baths? *None.* Location *—*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs "Newcastlewest Social Club" caters for Billiards
board and other games.

Cultural Societies None.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries Co-operative Creamery.
Nash's Mineral Water Factory - an up to date Factory.
Phelan's Sawing and Grinding Mill.
Leonard's Grinding Mill.

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

The Technical School gives tuition in the usual subjects.
Arts & Crafts.
Mr. O'Connor is the Teacher.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

None.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

"R.C. Church" - A substantial Gothic building, Good interior, No Spire.
"Church of Ireland" - A dark Gothic Church adjoining the Diamond Hall.
"Carnegie Library" A nice - if untidy - building near The Square.
"The County Home" A very fine enclosed building accommodating over 500 patients.
"Technical School" An artistic building hidden behind the County Home.
"The Court House" a dark (if substantial) building, no architectural feature worth noting.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Convent - Primary & Secondary - a good walled in building
Newcastlewest N. School, Five Teachers - a dark looking building
" " Secondary. Two " "
Killegheen N. School. Two " - A small bright School.

HOSPITALS

Nearest Broom - 18 Miles distant.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *Seventeen Fairs in Year - only twelve successful.*

Weekly market day *Thursday* Half-holiday *Wednesday*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Messrs Nash & Co. - North Quay Newcastlewest
" O'Shea - South Quay
Mr Hartnett - Maiden St - Petrol Pump only.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *None.*

Motors (Touring) *M. Shive, Boherbee. P. Vaughan, Churchtown.*
P. Wright, South Quay. J. Pilkinton, Bridge Street.
P. O'Rourke, Chapel Street. J. O'Boonot, Knockare.

Boats (State type) *None.*

Bicycles *None.*

Caravans *None.*

Horses *None.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *Free all over the* Landowner *—*
Tarish

TOWN

Local Improvements Committee *and Tarish Council*

Secretary *Town Improvements Committee - Mrs M. Musgrave. Tarish Council - M. J. O'Shea*

DATE *September 23rd 1944* (Signed) *Ralph Lucas*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Glengquin

TOWN OR VILLAGE Newcastlewest PARISH Newcastlewest 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 "Deel" and Tributaries Nearest point to town (distance) In town

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon, Trout and Eel.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 10 lbs Sea trout none Brown trout 1/4 lb

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Feb - May Sea trout none Brown trout April - August

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon "Black Doctor", "Thunder & Lightning", "Silver & Lemon Grey", etc.
Sea trout none

Brown trout Try all flies, as the Deel trout's taste, or fancy varies.

State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.
"Free" on payment of £1 to "Deel Anglers Association".

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

All Free to members of "Deel Anglers Association".

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None available — none required.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Newcastlewest and Abbe Bathkeale.

Local Angling Club The Deel Anglers Association Membership Fee £1 per Year to visitors
Secretary (and Address) D. J. Moylan, 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 Newcastlewest No. of holes Nine

Situation and brief description of course :

The course is a fairly good one, located ^{Half} 1/2 miles to South East of Newcastlewest, it is regularly clipped and trimmed up. The Professional comes periodically from Ballybunion. Club has a membership of 120. Secretary is B. M. O'Leary, Homeville, Newcastlewest

Name of Professional J. M. Ellgott, Ballybunion visits periodically.

Is there a clubhouse on course ? Yes. Licensed ? No.

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day 2/- Per week MONTH 15/-

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 *The Limerick Foxhounds occasionally meet, but do not hunt in Parish.*
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 a fair sprinkling of Pheasants on the farms around Newcastlewest, No Partridge, Woodcock or rare, Rabbits and Pidgeons practically extinct, Snipe, Plover and Curlew scarce. Newcastlewest could not be recommended to the Tourist fond of shooting

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

While there are no preserves in the strict sense of the word, nevertheless it would be wise for any Tourist or visitor to get in touch with the Garda or Postmaster D.J. Moylan, before proceeding to shoot.

Shooting Club *Postmaster Moylan will give information re club about to be started* - Secy..... *No Secretary at present time. Club in course of formation*

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 *Newcastlewest Hurling Club, Field adjoining town.*
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..... *Yes in Social Club.*
Badminton..... *" " "*
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.

ANNUAL EVENTS

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

Pilgrimage to "St Brigid's Holy Well" Promoters *A time honoured custom.*
1st February every year.
An occasional Hurling match. *G.A.A.*
Periodic "Tuke Drives" for the
extermination of Termin or Deel *The Deel Angler's Association*

DATE *September 23rd 1944.*

(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 failed to trace any of above in Parish. The only historical events were connected with the Lord Devon or Courtney Estate described under appropriate headings of "mansions, castles, and estates."

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.

No Historic House or Burial Place worthy of note in above Parish.

Canon Beqley (the historian) in his "Diocese of Limerick" mentions a tombstone erected in Churchtown Cemetery to memory of Morgan O'Brien descended from Milesian Race. Ft Hourigan was also buried there.

Grass too high to trace either tombstone.

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.

No Spas or Mineral Springs.

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 are no curiosities coming strictly under above headings, but in the literal sense there are some peculiarities in Newcastlewest which might be worthy of the name, for instance it is curious to find Golf absorbing Tennis, Handball, and Hurling. To find the beautiful new Technical School semihidden away at the back of the County Home, instead of ornamenting the town by its presence on a suitable site in the main street. To find the County Home used for the dual purposes of catering for the infirm, and unmarried mothers of the County. As the latter I was informed that eligible bachelors with genuine matrimonial intentions & homes were given facilities to pick a wife from the many who had "loved too well but not wisely," I need not add that the fair ones consent was a preliminary condition to an arranged meeting under the watchful eyes of the Authorities, under such circumstances there could be very little romance, — though believe it or not, happiness usually follows such marriages.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

St Brigid's Holy well located one mile to west of Newcastle. An entrance gate and turnstile with eighty yards concrete path leads from left of main Newcastlewest. Abbeyfeale Road to the "well," which is overbuilt with a neat statue of St ~~Brigid~~ Brigid with crozier in right hand. The concrete walk is continued round the "well," there are no emblems of piety. I was told that the water from the Holy well would, ^{not} or could not be boiled, but this tale can be taken with the reserve it merits, as I saw people drawing water from it in buckets.

Pilgrimage to the well is on St Brigid's day (1st February) certain prayers are recited during the "Rounds," and cures and improvements are claimed for the afflicted possessed of sufficient faith.

(Signed) Ralph Lucas.

Surveyor.

DATE September 23rd 1944.