

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.[BARONY OF Cornells Lower.....TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathkeale..... PARISH Rathkeale..... COUNTY Limerick.....

TOPOGRAPHY

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

Rathkeale cannot claim any outstanding scenic views within the confines of the parish, although the flat, tree clustered, mountain ringed plain may be classafied by some tourists as interesting. A good view of an immense stretch of country can be got from the top of Ballyallinan Castle - 1/4 miles South, from Mannix's Folly - 2 miles West, and from the R.C. Church Rathkeale. There is a pleasant walk around the circular road by the wooded demesnes of Abbeylands & Beechmount. Cyclists will find the 18 mile trip-over ~~the~~ good roads - to Knockaderry, Bellingarry and the nearby Knockaferma 948 Peak very pleasant. The Scenery from the Peak is the best in Co. Limerick. The innumerable old Castles, Towers, Ruins, & Towns of Limerick stud the horizon.

GEOLOGY

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

There are no unusual Geological features, and very little over-ground rock. The whitethorn fences are very beautiful when in bloom in the month of May. The principal crops are Oats, wheat, Barley, Potatoes and root crops, with a large percentage of pasture and meadowland.

Rathkeale - like most of Co. Limerick - is a dairying district.

A lead mine existed some hundred years ago in the townland of Curraghnadaly & Mountbrown.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

The only mansions and Estates of an imposing character are "Abbey House", "Beechmount House" and "Stoneville House". The former two adjoin the Town of Rathkeale, and the latter is 1/2 miles to the North.

"Abbey House" - the property of Major Walker is a substantial well kept mansion, with a Southern aspect, surrounded by woods, and enclosing the "abbey" and touching the town of Rathkeale.

"Beechmount House" - the property of Major Langford is picturesquely situated near a small lake in the grounds. The public road which circles "Abbey House" & "Beechmount" is a favourite walk for people of Rathkeale.

"Stoneville House" - the property of Major Massy is a nice building located on road between Rathkeale (1/2 MILES) and Askeaton. The demesne is a large wooded one and gives a considerable amount of local employment in the cultivation of the land. There is a fine entrance gate with carved eagles at both sides. A small tower is located some distance inside the gate entrance.

ANTIQUITIES

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

ABBEY

"Saint Mary's Priory, or Abbey" Rathkeale. The church measures $100' \times 23\frac{1}{2}'$ there is a broken square tower to the west, much of which fell in the winter of 1878. The North wall of the church and tower are gone. The East Gable is intact and has three interlacing shafts, set in an older three lighted window. South side wall is $24'$ high and $3\frac{1}{2}'$ feet thick and has five windows. There was an older tower to the side $20'$ square. "Westropp" says it was supposed to have been founded by Elinor Turcell in 1200, while another authority (in 1837) claims it was founded and endowed by Gilbert Harvey in 1299 and further endowed by Eleanor Turcell, a descendant of Harvey. The dilapidated ruins are now owned by Major Waller, and are enclosed within high walls in the town of Rathkeale. Access is difficult. It is claimed locally that above Abbey was a brother house and contemporary of Bragh Abbey — 4 miles distant — already reported on.

CASTLES

- (1) On the south suburbs of Rathkeale there are two reconstructed Castles, or Towers, which the O.S. Maps does not show, but might be two of the three Castles mentioned by "O'Dowd" and one of the Castles described by "Westropp". The first is a square building 100 Yards to South of Rathkeale, Newcastle Road, and nearly opposite to B. O. Ireland. It would pass as a four story. Torch etc, have been added to it, and I am sure larger windows though it still has a dark appearance. It is castellated and zinc roofed. It does not look an architectural masterpiece, and reminds the passerby of a very thin well dressed man with a diminutive top hat. Solicitor Liston occupies it.
- (2) "Castlematrix Castle or Tower" located on the Deel River half mile west of Rathkeale is a neat reconstructed Castle now occupied by Mr Connellan N.T. — former owner Mr Southwell Brown. who built the adjoining mill which turned out 20,000 barrells of wheat annually over a century ago. The Mill is now silent and doomed. The Castle has a windcharger on top, with castellations and corner machicolations. If this is the Rathkeale Tower mentioned by "Westropp 118" — which seems likely from its measurements $40' \times 36\frac{1}{2}'$ by $60'$ high, walls $6'$ thick, battlemented, four stories. "Westropp" gives no history, and no local can supply the omission.
- (3) Rathnasare Castle located at a road junction at Wilton, on the Rathkeale Kilmeady road. measures $27' \times 21'$ by $35'$ high, well battered foundation. East, west, gable foundations gone, also some of central wall bottoms. Huge gaps on top of west and South walls. East door broken, Stairs partly intact. all apartments unroofed, Latrine hole in South side, The usual number and description of slitted windows, no square ones showing. Built by McSheehy. no local history. Cannot trace in "Westropp's Castles & Churches".

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

Old Churches

(2)

(1) "Rathnasire Church" located near the road junction at Wilton - on the Rathkeale, Kilmeady road - $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Rathkeale - This Church has two apartments, The outer, (or larger) measures $36' \times 22'$. The inner (or chancel) $20' \times 15'$. The East Gable is intact and shows the usual window very narrow on the outside, well splayed and neatly arched on the inside, with another splayed window nearby in the South wall. The South door is broken down, and the West Gable has disappeared. There is a large gap in the dividing wall between the apartments the top of which is intact. Outside the position which the West Gable occupied there is a large mausoleum - name undecipherable - and nearby what looks like the outline foundations of another building. There are not many graves, and only a few tombstones in the unkempt cemetery. The Old ruins are wynnantled.

(2) "St Brendan's Church" located 100 Yards from "Ballyallinan Castle" (2 Miles from Knockaderry village) very little remains of above diminutive Church. Its width is only 10 feet with a small intact East gable, and propped up tiny window. Thirteen feet of the foundation of South wall still stands a few feet above the ground. The original Church would probably measure not more than $16' \times 10'$ by $8'$ high, and competes with the 1300 year old "Kilulta Church" (Kildimo Parish) in diminitiveness. It is more dwarfed and ancient looking than the latter, but this would be due to the care which "Kilulta" receives from the B.O. Works and which "St Brendan's" requires, and does not receive.

The Saints' well is thirty Yards distant from the Church and is described in Form A. under heading "Holy wells". There is no cemetery attached to Church. I failed to trace history

B. Lucas 16/5/44

Ballyallinan Castle

(28)

Located on road between Rathkeale and Knockaderry - (Two miles) Its interior measurements are $33' \times 14'$ by $80'$ high. It has a wellbattered foundation, a broken north door, with porch inside covered by the usual "Murdering Hole" and intact stairs leading to almost the top of Castle.

The floor apartment ($33' \times 14'$) shows the 2nd floor roof in fine state of preservation - the 1st floor roof is gone -

Several small apartments are difficult to examine owing to unsafe approach. The west corner foundation is broken away and there are two large gaps showing in the centre, western, & Southern walls, otherwise the masonry is not in overbad repair. Sgy on East wall has been cut by the owner - Mr Keating - who resides in attached thatched house, and who does not feel too safe or cheerful about the fate of his domicile if the attached skyscraper collapses. The waters of the Deel River in high ^{floods} sometimes come up to the Castle, and a boat is stored in the Castle to cater for such an emergency, as well as for shooting wildfowl.

This must have been a very fine type of castle and is a landmark sticking up in a very flat country. Any Tourist passing on the Luicrick Kellarney road cannot fail to be attracted by its conspicuousness, especially from the village of Reens. There is a very fine view from the top of the Castle but access is not easy or very safe.

It is said to have been built by the O'Hallinans, though this is not confirmed by "Westropp" in his Castles and Churches of Luicrick (Rathkeale Parish). I have failed to trace its history locally.

Rathkeale was the stronghold of the Tinker Confraternity
They established in the northern suburbs of the town
a foothold which has stood the test of time and war.
To day their little shacks perched in twisted streets
and on little hillocks are crumbling to decay
and the majority of the community have taken
to the roads in vans. In Autumn they usually
returned to Rathkeale and dug in for the winter.

Times have changed and it is possible a
big percentage will return no more to their
stronghold. The Tinker has a quarrelsome
name but this is not said of the Rathkeale
specimen, on the contrary they are quiet and
law-abiding, only fighting among themselves
on Fair days to break the monotony of their
existence. They are also strictly honest and
I have not heard a native of Rathkeale to
say a word against their lack of civic spirit.

They lived a separate existence to their neighbours
and rarely intermixed with any one outside
their own clan. As the community is vanishing
from Rathkeale their loss will be felt by the
patrons of the Horse Fair, it is truthfully said
they made the Horse Fairs and their departure
may have a detrimental effect on its future.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Bonnells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathkeale PARISH Rathkeale 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" Nearest point to town (distance) PASSES THROUGH

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon & Trout — A sprinkling of Pike.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 10^{lbs} Sea trout VERY RARE Brown trout ~~2~~ $\frac{1}{2}$

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Feb., Mar., & April Sea trout — Brown trout April, May, to August.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon "Thunder & Lightning" Lemon Grey "Silver Grey" "Black Doctor" "Jack Scott" —

Sea trout — & and Flies tied locally.

Brown trout Orange Grouse, Brown, Silver & Green Bird "Olive Quill" "Olive Dun" & Locally tied Flies

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

"Entirely Free" — if MEMBER OF DEEL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION.

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The whole River Deel from source to Mouth is now presented by "The Deel Angler's Association". They are restocking with 100,000 ^{TROUT} Fry next year (30,000 this year) cleaning, killing Pike, banishing swans, etc. The Association expect to make the river one of the best in Eire. One member caught 470 Trout since this season opened. The membership fee is 5/- per year.

Tourists and others are charged 5/- per week. Trout though small, are good fighters. Salmon are not plentiful above Rathkeale.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None required.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Rathkeale—where there are (or will be) Two Registered Hotels, and three Boarding Houses.

Local Angling Club The Deel Angler's Association Membership Fee Regular Members 5/- per Year
 Secretary (and Address) Maurice Fitzgibbon Esq, District Court Clerk, Rathkeale — or Mr Vurtill Aokerton or Mr D. J. Comerford, National Bank, Aokerton. Tourists & Others 5/- Per Week

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 REQUIRED.

Bait available locally ? NONE. Fishing tackle ? NONE.

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn. NONE.

GOLFING

Name of Club NONE NEARER THAN ADARE - 10 1/2 MILES No. of holes ADARE - 9 HOLES.

Situation and brief description of course :

ADARE. 10 1/2 miles distant.

Name of Professional _____

Is there a clubhouse on course ? _____ Licensed ? _____

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

RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year *None at present*
Under which rules? *Racing will probably be resumed after war.*
Situation of course *One mile north of Rathkeale.*

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds *The Limerick Hounds.*
Harriers *The Stonehall Harriers.*
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 "free" rough shooting of "wild duck," "Glover," "curlew," "wild geese" & "snipe" along the flooded banks of the Deel to south of Rathkeale. There are scattered Pheasants, woodcock, Pidgeon, Rabbits & Hares, however, none of the shooting could be classed as good, and large bags are rarely obtained.

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

No preserves for sale.

Shooting Club *None.* Secy. *—*

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 *Yes. Football Club. 1 mile outside town.*
 Hurling *Yes. Hurling Club. 1 " " "*
 Handball *None.* Handball alley? *None.*
 Soccer *None.*
 Rugby *None.*
 Cricket *None.*
 Hockey *None.*
 Bowls *None.*
 Bowling (on public roads) *None.*
 Lawn Tennis *Yes: attached to Deel Hall* Kinds of courts *Two Double Green.*
 Croquet *Yes? in Deel Hall*
 Billiards *Yes: in "Deel Hall" and in C.Y. M.S. Hall*
 Badminton *Yes? in "Deel Hall,"*
 Table Tennis *None.*
 Bridge Club *None.*
 Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing).....
"Block Golf" is played in grounds attached to Tennis courts at rear of "Deel Hall" — no Cross Road dancing.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club *None at the present time* 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.

There are no sports held in Parish at the present time. Promoters _____
A periodical hurling match occurs. _____
There are no Patterns or Pilgrimages. _____
No Horse Racing until after the war. _____

DATE *June 16th 1944* (Signed) *Ralph Lucas.*
 Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Cornells Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathkeale PARISH Rathkeale COUNTY Limerick

Location and brief description. Population 1565

Rathkeale is located on a slight inclined elevation 18 miles from Limerick on Killarney Road. It consists principally of a mile long winding concrete street, with small streets & lanes branching from it. Its Courthouse, Banks & Churches - particularly the R.C. - are ornamental, and its shops, houses, & clean streets, above the country town average. Its Creamery, Markets, and particularly its Fairs, are its principal industries. Timber (for which it was famous) R.C.'s, C.O.'s, & Palatinos, make up its dwindling ^{sectarian} population. Its mill, which turned out 20,000 barrels of wheat annually and employed 100 persons is silent. Its Hospital is down. In brief it is a peaceable friendly town.

Is there a Town Hall? NONE Location POPULATION 1837-4972

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description :

NONE.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage :

There is a good and adequate filtered water installation laid on to most of the houses (Garda barracks is one exception) Pressure is ample at all times. The sewerage system is piped and seems efficient. The streets are clean & tidy.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Rathkeale Distance 100 YARDS. Bus? Yes - one daily each way
Public lighting by - Electricity? YES? E. S. B. Gas? NONE.

DANCING

Dance hall "The Deel Hall" Proprietor Mrs Fennell.
Main St. (south side)
Rathkeale.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas "Gazettes" Pictures shown All sorts
The above Pictures are shown in (nights) Every night
a canvas tent while a substantial
New cinema is being erected
Theatre NONE Kind of shows NONE.
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Carnegie Free Library*

Private Lending Libraries *None.*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church	<i>"Rathkeale R.C. Church"</i>	Services (Sundays)	<i>8.30</i>	<i>&</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>NOON.</i>
	<i>"Church of Ireland"</i>		<i>8.30</i>	<i>&</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>" S.T.</i>
	<i>"Methodist Church"</i>				<i>12</i>	<i>" S.T.</i>

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Thomas St - off MAIN STREET.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *ALL THREE.*

BANKING

Banks	<i>"Munster & Leinster"</i>	<i>MAIN STREET</i>
	<i>"NATIONAL"</i>	<i>" "</i>

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *Messrs Sparling Main St.*

" W. Henry " "

Photographic Stores *Two Chemist Shops usually supply Photographic materials. At the present time no supplies available*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *NONE.* Location *—*

Public Baths? *NONE.* Location *—*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs..... There is a C.Y.M.S. also a "Countrywomen's Association"

Cultural Societies..... N O N E.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries..... The only industry is "The Co-operative Creamery"

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

N O N E.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

N O N E.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

"R. C. Church," a beautiful Gothic building extending from Thomas St. to New Road (27 steps lead down from the church main door to the latter highway) Its tower is 150ft. high and displays at its base a three faced clock which can be heard and seen for miles round. Its lovely nave, and parallel Isles rest on 10 massive pillars
"Church of Ireland" a large Gothic Church of the usual architectural features both the R. C. & C. O. I. have neat Cemetaries attached & some fine tombstones & Mausoleums.
"Wesleyan Methodist Church" A small very neat building, with Jason's residence attached.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

There are Two R. C. National Schools and one "Church of Ireland" National School. Also a Convent National School.
A Secondary School for Boys & Girls is conducted in The Carnegie Free Library. Music lessons are also given.

HOSPITALS

Nearest Groom - 10 MILES. Lunenburg - 18 MILES.

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets CATTLE - Jan 7th FEB 7th MARCH 10th April 4th & 22nd
MAY 8th JUNE 1st & 19th JULY 17th AUG 1st & 25th Sep 1st Oct 15th NOV 4th & 18th Dec 15th HORSE FEB 20th June 12th

Weekly market day Tuesday Half-holiday Thursday (Sept 1st NOV 26th)

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Healy's Garage Three other Petrol stations

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis NONE.

Motors (Touring) There are Six Hackney Car owners

Boats (State type) NONE.

Bicycles NONE.

Caravans NONE.

Horses NONE.

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location Camping is Free all over the Parish Landowner _____

Local Improvements Committee Yes.

Secretary E. J. Casey Esq. Rathkeale

(Signed) Ralph Lucas.

DATE _____ Surveyor.

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH Rathkeale

BARONY Connells Lower

COUNTY Limerick

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathkeale

Copy typed & filed

HOTELS	NUMBER OF				Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lavs. (state kind)	Public Rooms			
"Wards" "Hibernian" "Cabells"	—	—	—	—	—	"Registered" "Cabells" held up pending installing of Flush Lavatory which is nearing completion. Registration promised	There is no regular Restaurant or Café. any of the Hotels, or Lodging Houses will fill the above role
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>							
Madigans Boarding House	5	NONE	1-OUTSIDE Flush	Two	Yes	Madigans is a neat Hotel, It lacks Bath & Inside Flush Lavatory. Registration refused	
Mrs Mulcahy's " "	5	NONE	1-OUTSIDE D.R.Y.	ONE	NO	Mrs Mulcahy & Mrs Madigans of Bank Place, Rathkeale are respectable class	
Mrs Oregan's " "	3	NONE	1-OUTSIDE D.R.Y.	ONE	NO	Lodging Houses with no interior Bath or Lavatory.	
Leahy's & Moylans are out of business	—	—	—	—	—	—	

DATE June 16th 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.

All traces of the historic past have now vanished from Rathkeale. Its three castles and manor sites cannot be located, and only the old abbey can now be located. The name "Rath Sacla" shows that it was once an ancient Gaelic fortress, the Forth or Rath is still to be seen at the back of Mount Southwell House.

Robert Waspail was lord of the soil there in 1203, it then passed to John Maltravers, the Earl of Desmond secured it in 1367. James the 9th Earl of Desmond was murdered at his Castle of Rathkeale in 1489, at the instigation of his brother John, Maurice the 10th Earl revenged his brother's death by slaying his murderer, Maurice - his to the 12th Earl died in Rathkeale in 1535.

Sir Nicholas Malby, butchered the monks, plundered and burned the town in 1579. After the death of the 13th Earl of Desmond in 1583. all his estates were confiscated. In 1587 Settlers from the western Counties of England were planted on the confiscated estates. Sir John Billingsley - an alderman of London -

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.

CONTINUED

- receiving 11,800 acres in Rathkeale and surrounding districts. Things were going on beautifully for the settlers until the victory of Hugh O'Neill at Yellow Ford in 1598. which aroused the spirits of the oppressed Irish, and inspired them with the hope of regaining their lost inheritance. An army of 12,000 men were raised. On the 8th & 9th October, 1598 this army was in the Rathkeale district, but the settlers got word of their intentions and hastily fled, thus escaping the death and destruction meted out to the less fortunate ones who stood by their ill got possessions. James Fitzthomas son of Thomas Roe, and illegitimate brother of the late Earl of Desmond was invited to assume the title, - an honour which he accepted. The Irish then united their forces at Rathkeale thus bringing a Desmond again to Munster. In a few months he won back almost all the territory of his predecessors.

NOTE

The above is taken from an article by Rita Hartigan of Rathkeale in the "Limerick Leader" of 28th May 1932. with some extracts from O'Dowd & Canon Begley the Historians.
The wording is my own.

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.

There are no Spas or Mineral Springs in the 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.

"Mannix's Folly" is a circular tower 18" in diameter and 35" high called after its builder. An inclined walled passage leads up to the entrance door, the neat arch of which shows the initials D.V.M. 1828. The interior has three double lighted windows, with castellations around its roofless top. The floor is neatly paved with large flags and surround a circular hole—which was probably a later *Zinnkern*—The view from the top shows the flat surrounding country and the 1/2 mile distant town of Rathkeale to the East. Coolcappagh Rathkeale road passes nearby. There are two conflicting views as to its origin—one shrouded in romance, the other in superstition. The first pictures a love smitten Mannix, possessed of wealth and minus brains through his enamourment. Denied ^{access} to the lady of his infatuation by her friends, he builds a high tower from which he craves a glimpse of his ladylove, or even hopes to see the smoke from the chimney of the house on the banks of the Deel River where she resides. The name of the structure would suggest a humiliating failure of the romance, though it is said—perhaps truthfully—that the "kick" he got out of the anticipation of seeing his "Idol," or "her smoke" might surpass the reality of leading her to the altar.

Mannix in second picture is an Engineer & atheist in charge of a large gang of men with no respect for church or conventions, forcing or coaxing his workers to erect for him on the Sundays a tower wherein he could live & superintend his work in comfort. He died on a Sunday before the completion of his enterprise. Which did Mannix the lover, or Mannix the Engineer own the "Folly"?

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

St Bernards Holy well located on road between Rathkeale and Knockaderry (2 miles) and within 100 Yards of Ballyallinan old castle and 30 Yards from remnants of very ancient Church.

This pondlike "Holy well" has few of the usual characteristics.

The water never ceases bubbling up all over the 10" diameter of the well, and a very strong stream issues from it.

A large gnarled ash tree overhangs it and white thorn trees encircle it on three sides. Rags, paper, and sacred emblems hang from the surrounding trees.

Though there is no regular "Tattern day," or cures claimed it is still patronized by many who have faith in its healing properties.

(Signed)

Ralph Lucas.

Surveyor.

DATE June 16th 1944.