

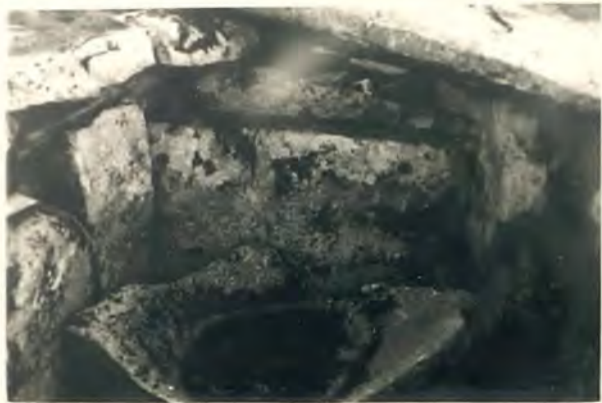
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Photos.

Baltinglass psh.

Baltinglass psh.

Burial chambers,
Baltinglass cairn.



Baltinglass Parish

Bureau Chamber

~~at~~ Baltinglass

Cairn Pattison

↑
This way up



Baltinglass Parish

Barial Chamber

~~at~~ Baltinglass

Cairn

Pattison

This way up





Baltinglass Parish

Baltinglass Cairn.

~~General View of~~

~~King. Tomb &~~

~~Cists~~ Pattison



Ballinglass Parish

"
" O'Mahoney " House,
Grange Con.

Pattison

(6)

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Abbotstown Upper

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballinglass PARISH Ballinglass COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The forests of Ballinglass abound in views which will entrance the visitor. One particular feature is that the surrounding hills, which no visitor to the area should fail to visit, are all easily ascended. Ballinglass hill in particular will more than repay the effort expended in its ascent. The valley through which the river Slaney flows is most pleasant as is also the valley to the east of the Ballinglass range.

GEOLOGY

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

The outstanding geological feature of Co Wicklow, its granite mountains are prevalent also in this parish which though forming the western boundary of the County and borders the flat lands of Kildare is nevertheless within a very short distance of the high granite peaks of mid Wicklow.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

This parish has only one outstanding estate, that of "The Ollahoney" at Orange Cove about five miles north of Ballinglass. The present house only dates from about 1924 as the original was burned prior to that.

Description. Though not conforming to any standard type of architecture its appearance is quite charming. The house, which is surrounded by stately trees, is of red brick and is rectangular in shape. The west wing which forms one arm of the angle is the older portion, having escaped complete destruction during the fire. This portion with its external wooden beams is slightly reminiscent of the Tudor house. The other wing which ~~is~~ varies in style, has a patio similar to that of a Spanish house. In front of the house, lovely gardens and a small swimming pool enhance the natural beauty. This house is not the principal seat of the family, but they have owned it for many generations. Neither a library nor art collection can be counted amongst its possessions, but one unusual thing owned by them is the only herd of pure white deer in Eire. ~~Neither~~ visitors are not allowed to either house or gardens, the latter being opened only on rare occasions, such as for Red Cross fund

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.

One of
Probably the most interesting antiquities in County Wicklow is found in this parish namely "Baltinglass Cairn." This cairn is located on the summit of Baltinglass hill (1258) ft which rises sharply from the eastern side of the town of that name. Antiquarians believe that it exists from somewhere about 500 B.C.

Description:- The exterior wall which is a "ring fort of stone" consists of a wall varying in ~~height~~^{depth} from 4 to 12 feet, and in ~~depth~~^{height} it is more or less uniform at about 6 feet. This wall is built entirely of small and medium sized stones, none of which, approach in size, the stones of the cairn proper.

The diameter is approximately 100 ft. and the circumference 300 feet. Some four feet inside this wall one encounters a ring of large stones of various shapes, there being nothing uniform about them, except that again they form a perfect circle. Between these two circles i.e. the outer wall and inner circle there is a segment of a circle of smaller stones and the intervening space between this and the inner ring is filled with small flattish stones.

Having penetrated ^{further} inside one finds the Cists or burial chambers, these being four in number.

1. On the northern side is found the largest and most perfect one. This is formed by about 22 large ^{standing upright} stones of more or less equal height, all composed of granite, forming a circle with a passage or neck running northwards. This passage is about 10 ft long and 3½ ft high and varies from 2 to 3 feet in width. Outside these stones are piled up hundreds of smaller stones which act as a complete fence all the way round. Finally the whole lot is covered by 12 huge cap stones lying flat on the uprights. Inside the ring, on the ground, is a very large stone of more or less boat shape about 4½ ft long 3 ft wide in the centre and tapering at the extremities. It stands about 2¾ ft high and the top being hollowed out it has a shallow font-like appearance. This was probably something like a "Bullaun" stone. It is interesting to note that the largest upright stone, the largest Cap stone and the above stone are all at the southern end of the ring and face the entrance. The diameter inside this ring is on the nature of 7 ft.

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

Moving westwards from the 1st Cist some 12 or 14 ft, one next meets a channel of stones running from the circumference towards the centre of the "Fort". This channel is about 70ft long and 2ft wide and ends in a very small circle. The stones vary very much in size from medium to small stones. It is difficult to say what exactly this was.

2. The second cist is formed from a pile of smallish stones rising some 10ft in height. This pile is cone shaped, and on the western side is a passage or entrance protruding from it. This entrance is 3ft high and 1 1/2 ft wide ~~and~~ is about 4ft long ~~wide~~ and covered with stone flags. In appearance it ~~is~~ exactly corresponds to the general conception of a Cairn.

3. The third Cairn which is on the western side of the "Fort" is somewhat similar to the second. It is composed of a pile of smallish stones but in this case they are resting as it were on a foundation of very large stones. Again it is not cone shaped but elongated, ~~and~~ inclined to be crescent shaped and it tapers at the southern extremity. This stone mound rises to the ~~height~~ ^{height} of 10ft, the top is pointed as the sides slope sharply up but the base is probably 10 or 12 ft wide. The easiest way of describing this stone formation would be to liken it to the roof of a house which had been bent to a crescent shape and tapered at one end.

4. The fourth and last cist is located at the south western end of the "Fort" and apart from the "Channel" is the smallest structure. It consists of 10 stones each around 4ft in height, of various shapes some being squareish, others flattish ~~and~~ with their edges pointing inwards and in between these are 10 or 12 flat stones of varying heights with their flat surfaces facing inwards all forming a ring, the diameter of which would be approx 4ft. On the western side it opens out by the addition of several other standing stones to form an entrance passage which would be about 2 1/2 ft in length. Inside the ring, inserted into the ground ~~at the~~ ^{at the} bases of ^{each of} the stones whose flat surfaces face the centre is an elongated narrow stone. These also form a ring. One point worth noting here is that the second stone on the left of the entrance has a distinct ring or circle carved on its surface.

The remains of this once famous monastery stand to the east of the Slaney river just on the northern fringe of the town of Baltinglass. It might be well to note at this point that the general belief is that the portion remaining represents the whole Abbey. Such is not the case, the remnant is merely the main aisle or nave of the church. Though little remains of the outer walls they can quite easily be traced.

The Abbey consisted of a nave, two aisles, two Transepts, and a Choir. The other portions of the Monastery extended quite a long distance beyond the present adjoining Rectory.

Description The entire building was constructed with fairly large stone. The existing parts are, the eastern gable, the north and south walls of the Sanctuary, the arches and pillars forming the Nave and the West gable. Some ten or twelve feet outside these pillars can be seen the remains of the outer walls of the church although not much remains, except on the northern side where the wall has been restored in recent times.

The eastern gable is pierced by three tall narrow windows at the base of which is a stone altar, not the original but where the original stood. The sides of the sanctuary are formed by two arches, on either side (partly built up during restoration) each side having a large Romanesque arch and a smaller Gothic one. At this point in the centre of the church rises a square crenellated tower of modern construction. This is what is left of a Protestant Parish Church which was built in 1883 and which unfortunately completely disfigures it. The six beautiful Gothic arches on either side of the nave are then encountered, supported by round and square pillars alternately ~~and~~ each pillar being surmounted by a large square sandstone and each ~~is~~ exquisitely carved with a different type of decoration. Finally the west gable rises, again displaying the three tall narrow windows (in this case incomplete) beneath which is the doorway which is also Gothic in design.

This Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1148-51 by Dermot McMorrough and was a sister house to the more renowned Mellifont Abbey. In appearance
over

Baltinglass Abbey Cont

4.

it closely resembles Tenkern Abbey. Tradition says that King John was educated here for a time but confirmation of this cannot be obtained. The monks here became owners of large tracts of land in various parts of the Country, and apropos^{of} (6) that, the following item is of interest. In 1278 Sir Richard Bagot Knpt. Chief Justice of the Kings Bench built a monastery for Carmelites in the parish of St Peters Dublin on a plot purchased from Baltinglass Abbey. It is believed that the present Carmelite convent in Augier Street occupies that site.

The Abbot of Baltinglass was a titled Abbot and as such, sat as one of the twenty four Spiritual Peers in the Irish Parliament. In 1380 this Abbey was one of those forbidden to admit any more Irishman to the religious profession.

After its dissolution, a grant was made to Thomas Kerstall Viscount Baltinglass, in 1537, of the Abbey and all its possessions. It subsequently fell into disuse and further records are not available.

The entire property is in the care of the Board of Works and is in a good state of preservation. Free access.

Church Tower in Graveyard Baltinglass

Description. This tall square tower is similar to innumerable others on 18th & 19th Century churches throughout the country, only in this case it is not attached to a church. In Penal times prior to Catholic Emancipation it was illegal to summon a congregation to service by ringing a church bell. The pastor of Baltinglass at that time a Father O'Shea devised the scheme of ringing a bell away from his church, in this way he avoided breaking the law. Accordingly he had this tower built in the adjoining graveyard. It is of interest to note that the first bell cast after the Emancipation was rung from this tower. The bell is now in Stratford-on-Slaney. A stone plaque on the tower bears a Greek inscription. The tower is in an excellent state of preservation and as it is in the graveyard there is a right of way and free access.

About five miles south of Baltinglass in the townland of Graneey or Graney can be seen the place where once stood a famous Nunnery or Convent.


At a fork on the road is a smithy shop and it is in the field at the back of it that the remains of the foundation can be seen. It is evident that the place ^{was} very large and probably important because in tracing the foundations, now earth covered, though easily discernable, it will be seen that they cover perhaps two or more acres.

It is possible, by following the raised portions to get a fair idea of what the place looked like. Some of the "rooms" if they can be so-called were quite large while others appear small. There is no way of identifying the different types of rooms or where the Chapel stood, but it is interesting to travel in fancy to the year 1200 the date of its origin.

Walter de Riddlesford founded this institution in the year 1200, under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin, for Canonesses of the Order of St. Augustine. From that date apparently it flourished until its suppression in 1535. Subsequently the place lands were granted to Sir Anthony St. Leger Kent for ever. Lord Leonard Gray a Lord Lieutenant took the title of Viscount Graney from this Priory. The remains are on the property of a Mr. Germane who lives nearby and he has not the slightest objection to people visiting it.

Castle at Grange Low House.

Situated in the grounds of Grange Low House the home of "The O'Mahoney" about 5 miles north west of Baltinglass is the remnant of what appears to be an old castle.

The owners unfortunately do not know anything definite about it, and it is difficult to state with certainty whether it was a castle or not so little of it remains. What remains, takes the form of a "corner" of a building. Built of large stone it rises to a height of about four storeys and it is from this fact that one might deduce that it was a castle. Embedded in the wall are two stones the first bearing the inscription "Gods strength is my defence 1621 H ~~XX~~ H." The other is just a rectangular stone $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ approx marked thus . The letters refer to Henry Harrington, either Sir Henry Harrington or his son. Sir Henry had been granted a great deal of land in Wicklow about the period of 1600. It is not known whether he remained here as late as 1610 as he found disfavour in the English Court, over

Certain it is that his son succeeded him but to which it owes its origin must be left in abeyance.

To anyone interested the proprietress will give permission to view it. Note: The remains of two buildings adjoin it but as far as can be discerned they are of very different construction and appear to date from a much later ~~late~~ period.

Raths

Ballycor, 25 20

There are several excellent examples of raths in this parish but the rath of Ballycor from a spectacular point of view takes pride of place.

Built on the upper extremity of a high promontory, the sides of which are almost vertical, it, ^{must have} presented an almost impregnable fortification at the time when it was built. Circular & constructed on the lines of moat and bailey the inner plateau has a diameter of about 60 ft. Out side of this is the second ring or ~~ditch~~ ^{dike} which takes more or less a heart shape coinciding with the extreme edge of the promontory. This dike would vary in depth from six to ten feet. The almost perpendicular drop below would be in the nature of 100 ft. On the fourth side, that which gives access along the top of the Promontory, about thirty yds from the rath a deep trench stretched right across. Portion of this appears to have been filled in but the remainder is quite intact. Even the most disinterested visitor could not fail to appreciate the construction and use of natural advantages displayed here. On the land of a Mrs Lawlor who lives in the adjoining house no objection is offered to people visiting it.

Another fine rath or Fort is located at "Gibraltar" townland about two miles south of Stratford on Slaney and adjoining the graveyard of Rathbray. It is also a circular earthen fort surrounded by a deep dike, both being quite well preserved. The inner plateau varies from 15 to 20 feet in height and the summit which is perfectly flat has a diameter of approx 150 ft. The outer dike though well formed is broken away in places but the remaining pieces of the earthwork are about 14 or 15 ft high. As in a great many cases the summit has a ring of trees growing on it but these are not connected with the structure and may be disregarded completely. On the property of Mr. Dundas past. there is no difficulty about viewing it.

"New more" Hill Forts are located in this parish, the first known as Rathnaquee and the other as the "Round O". Rathnaquee is located about two miles north of Baltinglass on the hill of the same name (Baltinglass Hill) or the continuation of it which runs northwards towards Tuckmill. The fort can be seen from the road if one knows exactly where to look but few locals know of its existence.

Description:— It consists merely of a large ditch or dyke dug into the hillside and forming a complete circle, ^{4-5 ft. depth} the interior area, ^{4 to 6 in. width} being possibly five or six acres in extent.

There are no other features about it except that it runs right up to the summit of the hill. It is on property owned by a Mr O'Brien who lives directly beneath it, and there is no objection to people visiting it. If the intending visitor takes the bye-road at Taldon bridge a little south of Tuckmill crossroads the first house up on the left hand side is Mr O'Brien's and a path leads from his yard almost directly up.

"Round O"

Almost similar in construction to Rathnaquee it is considerably smaller. ~~and~~ Again it consists of a dyke in the form of a circle varying from about 5 to 8 feet in depth and about six feet wide. In this case however the inner bank of the dyke is raised above the outer ~~and~~ with earth and stones to form a wall of several feet in height surrounding the inner plateau. This ~~is~~ raised inner portion would be from 200-250 feet in diameter. No extraordinary features.

This fort is most easily located by going to Timorahill Crossroads about 2 miles north west of Baltinglass. Situated as it is on the summit of Timorahill (1025) the ascent can be made from several places around there. Local advice if sought would be found beneficial.

"Long Stone" at Knockdoe or Ballycor.

Description: A granite stone which more or less tapers from the base and rises to a height of about nine feet. In the centre it would be about 3 feet wide and somewhat the same thickness. At the base on the north side, at about a foot from the ground it puts out probably 8 or 9 inches. It is located about 2 miles north west of the village of Grange Cow, and though it is described as being at Knockdoe locally it is said to be at Ballycor. On the land of a Mr Lennon he gives full permission to visit it. Over.

Graveyards.

There are ^{five} graveyards in the parish and though in some cases they are very old they are still in use. Taking them according to the interest they evince first comes Ballynure graveyard.

This excellently kept burial ground surrounds Ballynure church and is situated about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Grange Con. Here it is that "The O'Mahoneys" are buried and in their memories are several exquisite headstones. Two of them which on first appearance look like old Celtic crosses, ^{but} on further examination display features not usual in Celtic sculpture. Actually they are Jamaican crosses and were imported from that country. Baskets of stone on which are carved the "O'Mahoney" arms are really beautiful. There are other stones which though not beautiful are most interesting. To people visiting the parish a trip to this church will repay the effort. Free access.

Ballinglass graveyard which is in full view of the town does not offer anything interesting except the "Tower" which is described elsewhere.

Ballycor Graveyard Located about 2 miles N.W. of Grange Con in the townland of Ballycor this tiny graveyard has little to offer in the line of interest except that it is very old. Actually the oldest legible stone surveyor has observed in Co Wicklow is here. 1701. Burials tho. few are still carried on in it.

A most unusual graveyard though it could hardly be described as interesting is encountered at Kilmacough which, by the way is pronounced locally "Kylmahook" situated in the townland of Knockanigg about 1 1/2 miles south of Grange Con local aid will be necessary to locate it. For size it must surely be one of the smallest burial grounds in the country. It is sitting right in the centre of a very large field and consists of three graves belonging to the Wall family who originally lived there. It is surrounded by an iron ~~padding~~ paling and is considerably overgrown with trees shrubs etc. Mr. Mooney who owns the field has no objection to any one visiting it providing they don't leave gates etc open after them. Not of any real interest.

Lastly comes Rathbrann's Graveyard. Located about a mile and a half south of Stratford-on-Avony and adjoining the "Cibraltar" fort previously described this graveyard has nothing interesting to offer. It is believed to be on or near the site of a much earlier burial ground. Church. Free access.

Cromlechs or Druids Altar near Baltinglass

About a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile past the R. C. Chapel leaving Baltinglass on the left hand side of the road can be seen a small circle of stones in the centre of a field. Inside this circle is the remains of the "Cromlechs".

Description: This antiquity is in such a bad condition it is difficult to describe. It consists of about 5 medium stone slabs in no definite positions, having apparently been knocked down, and now they are half buried with soil and rubble. The probability is that it was a cromlechs of the "passage" variety, as the stones are flat slabs similar to those usually found in this type of antiquity. It is on the land of a Mr. Dan Keogh and interested people have full permission to view it.

Standing Stone at Tuckmill.

This is a large granite boulder standing in the middle of a field just on the Baltinglass side of Tuckmill Crossroads about 2 miles north of the town. It is between 7-8 feet high more or less roundish and having a diameter of about 2 1/2 ft. Unfortunately I was unable to make a close inspection of it as it was in the centre of a crop of wheat which would not be cut until after I had left the parish. From questioning I was of the opinion that it did not bear Ogham inscriptions. On the property of a Mr. O'Malley anyone who wishes may visit it provided it is not in a corn crop, as he does not wish it to be trampled.

Inscription on Dwyer monument
Baltunglass

leizteoir

"Cuimnis, a leaz coir, ar mheall na Dubhí agus a comharsaí
dileas Seisnyle Mae Sláodseir beir do b'í saor eagla imbeal
su báis. Cuimnis fós do bhuair ar an dream tíor-gradse
deirg asse ar son na h-Éireann na blianta 1798-1803
1848-1867. Muinntear Comhse Cill Mhannáin do tóg su
leaz so. Go Saora Dia Éire. 1904."

"To Commemorate the heroism and sacrifice of Michael
Dwyer and his faithful comrade Sawm in Allister and also
to perpetuate the memory of those who participated in
the Insurrectionary Movements of 1798-1803-1848-1867
This monument has been erected by the people of Wicklow
County. God Save Ireland. 1904."

Ballingless Parish

Description

The parish of Ballingless situated about 35 miles south of Dublin is one of the principal parishes of West Wicklow. To the south and west its boundaries coincide with the Co. Carlow and Kildare boundaries respectively. To the north it adjoins Dunlavin Parish, and the towering peaks of the Wicklow Mountains fortify ~~the~~ ^{its} eastern flank.

Owing to the mountainous nature of the terrain, like most Co. Wicklow parishes it covers a large area and apart from the towns it is sparsely populated.

Ballingless, the principal town of West Wicklow is situated more or less in the centre of the parish, while to the north and north west are the villages of Stratford-on-Slaney and Grange Coe.

The parish is intersected longitudinally by two ranges of hills. The eastern range has Ballingless Hill (1258) ft as its highest point while Tuoran Hill (1025) ft dominates the lower western range. The intervening valley is traversed by the river Slaney, which though not reaching great dimensions here, rapidly widens as it flows towards Ballingless, whose ancient monastery, overlooking the river, reflects the former glory of this historic old town.

Stratford on Slaney

This village perched high above the Slaney river at the present time houses no more than a couple of hundred people. It was originally built by the Earl of Aldborough and was to have been an exact replica of an English town. The original intentions were to have it laid out in squares wherein fountains would play. The streets were to have intersected at right angles, mills of various types to have been erected and in general to have been the "perfect" town. The dreams of the Earl were never realized, though the remains of one cotton mill still stands, and it is difficult to visualize that at one time a couple of thousand people lived here.

Grange Coe

This tiny little ^{village} is located about four (4) miles north west of Ballingless. Nestling in a well wooded district it is quite a pleasant dreamy little place. It consists of one small street of good breadth which embraces the chapel, school, shops and dwellings while at its western end is the tiny railway station. A continuation of this street northwards soon brings one to the gates of the "O'Mahony" Estate to which it probably owes its ^{original} ~~name~~. There are no outstanding views in the area but the surroundings are generally very pleasing.

Outstanding Scenery.

Without doubt the view from Ballyglass hill surpasses all to be had in the parish, and as the ascent is easy, the visitor who fails to obtain it, loses an unforgettable picture. The panorama lying beneath ones gaze embraces the vast level plains of Kildare, Leix, Offaly and to the distant Carlow mountains, while to the south east the Wicklow mountains pile one against another in varying shapes. Directly eastwards lies the fertile valley of Kilranleigh, over which Keadeen mountain (2146)ft sharply ascends. Beyond this valley rises towering Lagnaquilla (3035)ft and its sun-ombing satellites. To the north the hills soften and take on a more gentle aspect yielding beneath them the lovely Glen of Imaal beyond which the terrain gently slopes to the famous valley of Paulaphuca.

ii A most charming view, well known to visitors to Ballyglass may be obtained from the Golf Club to the west of the town. Directly behind the clubhouse the ground rises sharply and from this vantage point can be seen an entrancing spectacle.

High trees on either side form a perfect setting, ^{inside} which one can see the town lying peacefully below, while towering high beyond, rises Ballyglass Hill (1258) like a watchful guardian, beneath which the Slaney like a silver ribbon and the ancient Abbey are most prominent. A little to the right over the brow of the hill can be seen the flat lands of Co Carlow backed by the more distant Wicklow mountains.

It is surprising that this beautiful scenery of West Wicklow is not more popular for not only does it compare favourably with that on the eastern side of the County but in many cases far surpasses it.

The road from Stratford through the Slaney valley, without providing any outstanding spectacle must surely be a delight to any traveller. From Stratford the river and road accompany each other practically the whole way, while the enveloping purple and green hills on either side gradually rise as they converge towards the town. The valley is well wooded, and it is through the trees that one first glimpses the town, with the rapidly widening river flowing placidly towards it. To the left the Abbey first catches the eye, and from quite a long distance its lovely arches are quite discernible. Forming the background ^{between} the hills stands Ballyglass itself.

over.

Scenery continued

The valley to the west of Baltinglass hill from Kilsandagh to Tuckmill is well worth a visit. It affords an exceptional view of the mountains. Keadeen (2146) Lugnaquilla (2034) Slieveagh (1556) Slieveanna (2501) etc, filling one above the other cannot fail to impress with their grandeur.

Baltinglass hill (1258) on the opposite side, purple with its heather, looks clean and windswept. The valley itself displays a fertility unexpected in so mountainous a district.

Finally from Ballyhook hill (946) which rises above Stratford village can be had a lovely view of the surrounding country, somewhat similar to that seen from the summit of Baltinglass Hill.

Roads

Apart from a few bye-roads in very remote places the roads of the parish are quite good for motoring, cycling or walking. Undoubtedly, owing to the ^{hilly} nature of the country they are for the two latter means of travel, but the surfaces are a good deal better than a lot of roads encountered in the eastern half of the county.

Note:- Saundersgrove estate and house may be of interest from the following facts:- The house which has been erected not very many years ago is a very fine structure of cut granite. I could not ascertain if it was built to any particular design. It is unoccupied apparently and its owner Miss Tynte was away. She resided chiefly in Tynte Park in Dunlavin Parish. The family of which some members were titled, is a very old family in these parts. The house which replaces the former one which was burned down during the 1916-20 insurrection. An interesting item is that it was here that Capt Morley Saunders lived who had ~~30~~ ³⁰ of his ^{militiamen} ~~subalterns~~ shot on the Tan Green at Dunlavin for being hunted Irishmen.

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

Crannagh, as previously described, is about four miles south of Baltinglass, is also notable as being the site of a battle. In the year 480 A.D. a battle was fought between the men of Leinster and the Mc Cuskerstagh under Finnecado who was himself slain by Conybyrne and the forces defeated. The entire townland and perhaps some of those adjoining was the probable battle field.

Rathbrann. This townland located about two miles south of Stratford-on-Slaney and few miles north of Baltinglass was the residence of "Bran Dubh" king of Leinster in the 6th century. The exact spot where he dwelt was in not ascertainable.

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.

"Stratford Castle" The structural remains on the summit of Ballyhook hill over Stratford village, is generally known by that name but apparently this is a misnomer as the probability is that it was not a castle but a shooting lodge. What remains of the building, is in the form of a house about 60ft long and 20ft wide built entirely of medium sized stone. The windows on the exterior are of the slab type, embrasured on the inside. The walls are about one foot thick, and what remains are for the most part five feet in height. As far as can be ascertained locally it was erected by one of the Bards of Aldborough and used for shooting purposes. The ruin stands on property owned by a Mr Swan and a path leads directly up from Stratford village. Free access.

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.

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.

An item which may possibly be classed under the heading unusual objects is an oblong stone about 4 feet long 1 ft wide and 1 ft deep which lies on the front steps of Mr. Jentons House about 1/2 a mile south of Orange Conn. The upper surface is entirely covered with carved writing but which surveyor was unable to decipher, and locally nobody could give any enlightenment. However during some reading in the National Library I unearthed the following. This stone is the shaft of an "O'Toole" cross of the 17th Century. (Originally there were two but only one now remains) The text of the inscription is very incomplete owing to damage and only a word here and there can be translated. The writing is apparently in Latin, and Roman Capitals are used. The reverse side of the stone are the emblems of the Crucifixion. The actual cross and the pedestal for the shaft are missing. No objection will be raised to persons visiting it.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

No unusual Customs or anything traditional survives in the Parish. No Patterns.

DATE

18th Sept '13

(Signed)

J. P. Patten

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Tablorstown upper*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Ballinglass* PARISH *Ballinglass* COUNTY *Wicklow*

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 *Slaney* Nearest point to town (distance) *runs through town*

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon *Brown trout*

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon..... Sea trout Brown trout *4 lbs occasionally up to 1 lb*

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon..... Sea trout Brown trout *April - Aug.*

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout *Wrens, Orange, Blue Green, silver, Wickham's Fancy*

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

Free except on preserved stretch

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The portion of the river which runs through Sanders grove demesne. Proprietor Mrs Tynte Tynte Park near Dunlavin.

Note: Although this river holds salmon is not ordinarily fished for salmon in this district

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Ballinglass. Dunlavin.

Local Angling Club *no* 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.

GOLFING

Name of Club Battleground Golf Club No. of holes 9

Situation and brief description of course :

The course is situated on a hillside about 1/2 a mile west of the town. The course is hilly and very well wooded and offers some delightful scenery. Unfortunately it is not flourishing and therefore it is not as well kept as might be. Can offer pleasant golf.

Name of Professional none

Is there a clubhouse on course ? Yes Licensed ? Yes

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day 2/- Per week 5/2

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 *Kildare Hounds*.....

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 :

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

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.

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

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 *Ballyglass C. F. C.*
 Hurling *no*
 Handball..... Handball alley?.....
 Soccer *no*
 Rugby *no*
 Cricket *no*
 Hockey *no*
 Bowls *no*
 Bowling (on public roads) *no*
 Lawn Tennis *At Golf Club*..... Kinds of courts *2 grass courts*
 Croquet *no*
 Billiards *no*
 Badminton *no* } *suspended owing to war*
 Table Tennis *no* } *both were held at Golf Club*
 Bridge Club *no*
 Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing).....

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club *none*..... 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.....

none.

DATE *7/5 Sept. '43*..... (Signed)
 Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Talbotstown Upper*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Ballinglass* PARISH *Ballinglass* COUNTY *Wicklow*

Location and brief description.

Population *860*

The town of Ballinglass is situated on the main road from Dublin to Carlow and is about 40 miles south of the former, 10 miles north of Carlow and 10 miles S.E. of Dunlavin.

The town has not a very prepossessing appearance, the buildings being rather old. In construction it is a square or diamond with a number of streets shooting off at various angles. It is not at all uniformly planned. Towering high above it immediately at its eastern extremity is Ballinglass Hill (250 ft).

Is there a Town Hall? *Yes* Location *in middle of square.*

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

none.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Good water supply well covered of and drainage systems adequate.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Ballinglass* Distance *edge of town* Bus? *Yes*Public lighting by—Electricity? *Yes* Gas? *no*

DANCING

Dance hall *Town Hall* Proprietor *W. Keogh**Golf Club* *Golf Club Committee*

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *Town Hall* Pictures shown *Talkies every night*
Carleton (nights)Theatre *no* Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries *ONulla (branch of Argooy)*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church <i>R.C. Church Ballyglass</i>	Services (Sundays)	<i>9am 12 noon (Summer time)</i>
<i>R.C. Church Stratford</i>		<i>9am + 12 noon 11 am</i>
<i>R.C. Church Grange Co.</i>		<i>9 am + 11 am</i>
<i>Church of Ireland Stratford</i>		<i>10 am - 3 pm</i>
<i>Plymouth Brethren</i>		<i>12.30 "</i>
<i>Church of Ireland Ballyglass</i>		<i>12.30 "</i>

alternate Sunday

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Mill Street*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *All.*

BANKING

Banks *National Bank "the Square"*
Branch of Dunster & Dunster on market Fair days

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores *Group Medical Hall*
Ronanans do do

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *River Slaney* Location *Short distance north of town*

Public Baths? *No* Location *do*

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs.....

Cultural Societies *Bellingham Dramatic Society*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Milling*

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

None

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

In the centre of the "Square" a monument about 12 or 14 ft high is ~~to be~~ commemorating the valiant exploits of Michael O'Connell and Sam McEllister. It is in stone and the figure on top typifies "Freedom". The inscription which is both in Irish and English will be included separately. [back of green sheet 109]

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

R.C. Church Exceptionally fine granite Church cruciform in shape and fine Gothic architecture

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Elementary Schools *Bellingham Nat. School, Technical Schools Protestant & Catholic Nat. Schools, Stafford Grange Con*

HOSPITALS

District Hospital just outside town

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *3rd Monday each month.*

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

*ON Mill's The Square
Doyle main St.*

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *Mcnamara Ryan St
T.P. Doyle " "*

Motors (Touring) *as above*

Boats (State type) *none*

Bicycles *none*

Caravans

Horses *none*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *no particular sites* Landowner

Local Improvements Committee *none*

Secretary

DATE *7th Sept '43* (Signed) *M.P. Doyle*

Surveyor.
Juverna Press, Ltd., Dublin.

FRONT. *T. A. Ballinglass*

COUNTY. *Wicklow*

TOWN OR VILLAGE. *Ballinglass*

HOTELS

No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lavs.	No. of Public Rooms	Licensed
8	1	2 (out)	2	yes

TOURISTS

Bally Sheela

adequately furnished but not very well

Guest or Boarding Houses.

<i>Mr Loop's house</i>	4	1	1	2	no	<i>clean & perfectly furnished catering reported as good</i>
<i>Mrs Gosman's house</i>	3	-	1 out	2	no	<i>the kitchen</i>
<i>Bayne Mrs W. W. house</i>	2	-	1 out	2	no	<i>fair, clean not perfectly well furnished but good</i>

Date. *11th Sept 1943*

M. D. Ballinglass

11/9/43