

Ashford - Topography

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The district surrounding the little villages of Ashford and Glenealy contains some of the wildest and yet most attractive scenery in the county. Glens and defiles, mountains and hills, sea, pasture and woodlands of the tastefully ornamental demesnes - all unite in a series of romantic settings that have inspired poets, writers and painters of every generation and have been the delight of countless thousands of visitors from all parts of the world.

The celebrated Devil's Glen lies about a mile North West of Ashford. This deep rocky chasm is enclosed on both sides by precipitous craggy cliffs which, with their heavy clothing of trees and shrubs, interspersed with rugged masses of barren rocks, are in themselves an imposing sight. Far down below in its narrow rocky bed, the Vartry river, a brawling mountain torrent, rushes seawards between steep banks. On entering at the head of the glen, the river falls from a height of almost a hundred feet and forms a magnificent cascade before dropping into the "Devils' Punch Bowl", a deep basin in the rock below.

Walks have been constructed at a considerable elevation, and from these and the winding pathways which lead round the glen, some really splendid views are obtained. Midway through the glen, steps lead up to the "View Rock" which commands rare views of the Sugarloaf mountains, the sea and Wicklow town.

The glen is open to pedestrians and motorists, the former being admitted free on weekdays and on paying 2d on Sundays; motor cyclists pay 1/. and motorists 2/. every day. Admission tickets are procurable at Ashford business establishments.

There are numerous other glens and mountain hollows in this region and each possesses individual characteristics which excite feelings of awe or pleasurable surprise. Dunran Glen, near Killeskey, is amongst the most notable of these and features, amongst other attractions, several fantastic rock formations. One such formation is the remarkable "Bishop's Rock", so named because of its resemblance to a mitre.

The mountains on the West side contribute appreciably to the scenic grandeur of the locality, and, on every side, the profusion of luxuriant trees and shrubs add colour and variety to the view.

Ashford is 27 miles from Dublin and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Wicklow and Glenealy is $31\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 miles distant, respectively.

Ashford - Geology

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Apart from the many wild glens and rocky defiles, much of which may be termed waste land, there are considerable tracts of rich agricultural land and some bog in this area. The main geological formations are Cambrian and Lower Silurian. Granite is found in some places and marl is quite frequently met with.

Mansions etc.

Rosanna: This splendid old mansion stands in extensive grounds a short distance from Ashford and convenient to the romantic Devil's Glen. The house is an example of elegant simplicity in design and lies in a verdant hollow of rich meadowland near the Vartry River. The high slopes on both banks of the river are dotted with luxuriant trees which rank with the finest in the country - the leaves and splendid Spanish Chestnuts being particularly impressive. One enormous Spanish Chestnut has figured in Ripley's famous "Believe It Or Not" series and has been classified by Professor Henry, celebrated British arborist, as the largest of its kind in Europe.

These lands formed part of the O'Byrnes patrimony up to the time of James I, but was in the possession of Sir Wm. Parsons in 1606. It was let and sub-let to other tenants until 1741 when Richard Tighe, keeper of Records at the Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle, obtained a 999 years lease of half the estate; he secured a 900 years lease of the remainder in the following year. There was a mill but no residence at that time and to him is accredited the original construction of the present mansion.

It was amidst these beautiful surroundings that the authoress of "Psyche" found inspiration for her exquisite poem. Born in Dublin in October 1772 (her father, the Rev. Wm. Blackford, was Librarian to Marsh's Library, Dublin, for a number of years), Mary Tighe showed early signs of talent and beauty and at an early age she became the centre of attraction at the viceregal court where she frequently visited. In 1793, at the age of 21, she married her cousin, Henry Tighe, Barrister at the Middle Temple, and came to live at Rosanna, her mother's former home. The marriage proved rather unhappy, Mrs Tighe's health failed and she died, a consumptive, in her 38th year at Woodstock, Kilcoole, the home of her brother-in-law; She was buried at Inistioge.

In view of the stir which her poetry created some one and a half centuries ago, surprisingly little is known of Mary Tighe's private life, but a painting by Romney, depicting her as a young and very beautiful woman, hangs in the National Gallery.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Mansions etc.

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Thomas Moore was a close friend of the poetess and a frequent visitor at Rosanna, where it is said that he composed some of his sonnets whilst she set many of them to music. Mrs. Tighe was an accomplished harpist and until recently, at least, her harp was preserved in the house.

It is believed that the novelist, Maria Edgeworth, wrote one of her popular books at Rosanna.

Paying tribute to the poetic ability of Mrs. Tighe, Sir James Mackintosh said of her poem, "Psyche", that the last three cantos were "of surpassing beauty and beyond all doubt the most faultless series of verses ever produced by a woman". "Psyche" was printed at Rosanna for private circulation.

Rosanna has associations also with John Wesley, who availed himself of the hospitality of the owners when on a visit to Ireland. He addressed over 200 people in the Long Room and the organ on which he played on that occasion may still be seen in the house.

The property is now owned by the Corballis family and Mass is celebrated by a Jesuit Father on Sundays in the little private oratory at the house. Neither the demesne nor house is open to the public.

Mansions etc.

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Mount Usher Gardens

This beautiful garden demesne lies along the valley of the River Vartry, quite close to Ashford Village. The origin, growth and development of the gardens is traced back through three generations of the Walpole family to Mrs Edward Walpole who, in 1868, procured a lease of the old mill which then existed here - together with the small plot of land, a little over one acre in all. Mr. Walpole cleared the ground of its cabbages and potatoes and planted trees, shrubs and flowers in their place. He transferred his interest in the property to three of his sons seven years later and by gradual stages the little plot was added to and improved.

The Vartry was cleverly utilised to the best possible advantage for the purposes of watering and beautifying the gardens, the old Mill House was replaced by a somewhat larger residence, and pathways and avenues were constructed.

The Walpoles were amongst the first to approve of and put into practice the revolutionary gardening theories of William Robinson who advocated that trees and shrubs be allowed to grow in a more or less natural manner. The expert counsel and assistance of the late Sir Edward Moore, eminent horticulturist, were always at the disposal of these enthusiastic amateurs who readily sought and availed themselves of his expert and friendly advice.

The bridges which span the Vartry afford some attractive views along the river banks where irises, globe flowers and many primula species flourish in the moist soil. These and the Landsome Lysichiton Americanum, with its distinguished yellow spathes, as well as various astilbes and spiraeas, are also found near the edge of the water lily pond. In the shade of the tall alders near the pond many hardy plants and some select trees, plants and shrubs have been ideally grouped. Amongst these are the tree-sized *Acacia dealbata*, the crimson-lanterned *Tricuspidaria lanceolata*, *Euonymus Bungeanus*, *Leptospermum Chapmanni* - a mass of deep pink blossom, some fine magnolia specimens and several species of hybrid rhododendroms.

A number of rocky beds near the river accommodate many rock and alpine specialities. A path beyond the rock beds leads to the high-walled nurseries and, further on, a little summer-house provides a pretty view of the house and river. The lawn, which stretches between here and the house, is planted by Japanese maples including the beautiful pink Coral-bark Maple, and the river banks are fringed with mimulas and primulas.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Mount Usher Gardens

Form A.

Mansions etc.

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Choice climbers adorn the walls and the stems and branches of many of the trees.

The wood lies to the south and west of the house and here an almost sub-tropical effect is produced by the luxuriant growth of trees and shrubs which have been allowed to grow together in a natural way without any serious attempt at artificial order. Each plant has been given the most favourable spot in which it might best flourish and amongst the most remarkable specimens, which will command the admiration of the visitor, are the Kauri Pine *Agathis, australis, bursaria Spinosa* - about 20 feet high and bearing creamy white flowers, *Camellia reticulata*, Myrting Luma - over 20 feet tall and the rare Chinese holly, *Ilex Fargesii*.

The Mill Race flows between deep narrow banks which are planted on both sides with a rich assortment of ferns. For the convenient examination of these, a gangway has been laid along the course of the stream, a few inches over the water, and the visitor may walk along this and inspect the novel fernery with ease.

Amidst the countless varieties of trees, plants and shrubs in the Gardens, native plants of New Zealand, Japan, China, Australia, and Tasmania, the Americas, Ceylon, Africa, the Himalayas and other far-separated lands thrive luxuriantly in a galaxy of planned confusion wherein some of the most valuable of Irish plants find fitting place. Towering high above the majority of the other trees, a fine assemblage of *Eucalyptus* trees of varied species, some of them more than one hundred feet high, never fails to excite the interest of the visitor and is one of the outstanding features of the Gardens.

To have space to permit here, a detailed account of the beautiful Rose Walk and the other charming corners of Mount Usher would be very appropriate, but those who are really interested in such places may be assured at any rate that the Gardens rank with the finest in these islands and are well worthy of a visit.

Mr. E.H. Walpole, grandson of the founder, is the present proprietor and is also an ardent gardening enthusiast. The Gardens are open to the public on weekdays. A charge of 1s. per person is made and tickets may be obtained at Messrs. Walpoles (Ireland) Ltd., Suffolk Street, Dublin. The Gardens are closed to visitors on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Historic Houses Ashford.

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Dunran:

Sir Jonah Barrington (1760 - 1834), one time Judge of the Admiralty, Member of Parliament and author of "Historic Memoirs" (which exposed the corruption of the Union and was re-published as "Rise and Fall of the Irish Nation") resided here for a period. In his "Recollections" he mentions how, shortly after the '98 Rising the former owner, Countess Dewager of Mayo, discovered a man in hiding under her bed and immediately left the house. She went to live in England and on her disposing of the property, Barrington secured a cheap purchase. It is of interest to note in connection with Barrington that he was removed from the bench for misappropriation of Court fees, that he voted against the Union and yet was instrumental on behalf of the government in getting another M.P. to vote for the same measure which he publicly condemned and exposed in his writings. He was knighted after the Union and resided in France from 1809, dying at Versailles in 1834. He had been M.P. for Tuam, Clogher and Banagher.

Dunran has recently been purchased by Mr. Patrick Belton, T.D., Bellevue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, and the spacious mansion is untenanted presently. Ideally situated on a height, the house overlooks the romantic Devil's Glen, the Wicklow hills and, in the immediate foreground, the colourful demesne grounds; on a clear day the eastward view is extended for a great distance over St. George's Channel until, on the far side, Snowdon and other mountain peaks in Wales are discernible. An underground passage connects the mansion with the circular, granite-walled gardens which, sheltered by natural protections on the north, east and west, is an effective sun-trap and highly productive in several varieties of sub-tropical plants. Exotic blooms, in deed, are a feature of the garden, and fig trees too bear their fruit in the open without artificial aid. Magnificent rhododendrons grow profusely throughout the demesne grounds and add an effect of warm cheerfulness. Wild deer roam at large amongst the woodland and glen of the estate and pheasant, woodcock and other game are plentiful.

An old castle ruin, still in a fair condition, stands within the garden near the house. The castle formerly belonged to the O'Byrnes, chieftains in this district, and, during the '98 Rising, a party of insurgents took refuge here for a time.

Visitors will be freely admitted to the grounds on application to the proprietor or to the caretaker at Dunran.

Historic Houses Ashford.

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Glanmore Castle:

This spacious castellated mansion stood on a lofty eminence, adjacent to Nun's Cross, about 1 mile from Ashford, until its demolition about 1943. It was for about two centuries, the home of the Synge family, members of which, in the course of three hundred years had occupied nine bishoprics, one archbishopric and many other high offices in the Church of Ireland. The Synges were an old Shropshire family, whose original name was Millington, and it is said that the name Synge was conferred by Elizabeth on one member of the family who sang in Her Majesty's choir at the Chapel Royal.

Joseph Holt, Insurrectionist leader of '98, found refuge in the glens around the Glanmore estate following the Rising - Glanmore occupied one of the most choice sites near the opening to the Devil's Glen. Holt had previously been employed for a number of years by Francis Synge as deputy-overseer on the estate.

A great grandson of this Francis Synge, John Hatch Synge, married in 1856, Kathleen Traill of Schull, Co. Cork. The youngest of their four sons, John Millington Synge, was to become famous as the author of several brilliant plays; his most famous works are "Playboy of the Western World" and "Riders to the Sea". J.M. Synge was born near Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin in 1871 and was a frequent visitor to the ancestral home, Glanmore, where he resided at various periods.

The last owner of the property was the late Mr. R.A. Synge, eldest brother of the playwright.

Cronroe House - Now Bel Air Hotel:

Situated about half a mile from Ashford, Cronroe House was once the home of the Casement family and Sir Roger Casement, who was of another branch of the family, paid many visits here. Isaac Ambrose Eccles, a distinguished Shakespearean commentator and publisher of several of Shakespeare's works, also lived at Cronroe where he died in 1809. He has been described as "A profound scholar, a perfect gentleman, an ornament to Society".

This large, plain edifice is backed by the "Great Rdck of Cronroe", from which extensive views of the surrounding glens and countryside are obtainable.

Historic Houses Ashford.

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Hunter's Hotel, Newrathbridge:

This establishment was a celebrated hostelry even more than a century ago and a letter which hangs in the foyer testifies to a visit paid there by Sir Walter Scott, his son-in-law, Mr Lockhart, and their party; the letter, describing their tour in Wicklow, is dated 18th July, 1825, and is addressed to Mrs. Lockhart.

Kiltimon House:

The late Sir Henry O'Neal Segrave, celebrated personality of motor and speed-boat racing fame, was a most distinguished connection of the Segrave family who have long resided here. The house is close to Dunran Castle and the Devil's Glen and is 37 miles from Wicklow.

Deputies Pass:

About 1½ miles south west of Glenealy, was built in 1590, by Sir Wm. Russell, Lord Deputy, in order to connect Wicklow and Rathdrum and thus facilitate the English Armies who were being constantly harrassed in their efforts to conquer this territory by the local Irish Chieftains, most active of whom was Fiach MacHugh O'Byrne.

Kilnamanagh:

About the end of the 6th Century, a famous monastic school flourished here under the control of St. Eoghan or Eugenius, who became Bishop of Ardstraw and who is now revered as the patron saint of Derry Dioceses. Eoghan was an uncle of St. Kevin, who spent some time in this school of learning and piety and was pressed to succeed his uncle as head of the school when Eoghan removed to the north. St. Kevin declined the honour, however, and returned to a secluded hermitage before founding his Glendalough school.

Antiquities Ashford.

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In this district the ruins of several churches of considerable antiquity are found, but their origin and history are generally vague.

Killiskey Church:

This ruin lies in a now disused burial ground about 2 miles north of Ashford. It would appear to have been erected at an early date for, on the subjection of the area by the British in the 17th Century, the Catholics were dispossessed and it was continued in use by the Established Church. On the erection of the new church at Nun's Cross in 1817, Killiskey was abandoned.

Trinity Church:

About one mile south of Killiskey it also appears to date back to an early period and, at the blessed well nearby, patterns were held annually until recent years.

Kilmartin, Killoughter, Kilfea and Inchinappa are notable amongst the other religious foundations which flourished in this neighbourhood and many of which have now almost completely disappeared.

Ballyvolan Castle:

On the lands of Ballyvolan House, near the southern extremity of Ballyvolan Glen, are the scant remains of an ancient Castle in which, it is said, James II found refuge on his flight from the Boyne. Numerous finds have been made near this site, including skeletons and burnt wood, and, in a nearby marl-pit, a large horn containing Elizabethan silver coins - most of these discoveries were made over a century ago.

McDermott's Castle:

Vestiges of this ancient fortress are found in the mound and fosse at Ballinagran townland, east of Glenealy. There is evidence here of a Square fort, over 100' each side and a remnant of the side wall of the entrance hall is visible on the south side.

Local tradition asserts that it was to this castle that Dermott MacMurrough brought Dervorgilla, the wife of O'Rourke of Buiffne.

At Kilcandra, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north-west, a large rath, 50 yards in diameter, is said to have contained a church and burial ground of the MacDermott's of the nearby castle.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Barony of NewcastleTown or Village Ashford & Glenealy Parish Ashford 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 Vartry Nearest point to town (distance) _____ Flows by Ashford.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Numerous small brown trout and some sea trout in lower reaches.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon _____ Sea Trout _____ Brown Trout $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon _____

Sea trout _____

Brown trout Usual flies.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Stretch at Devil's Glen. Preserved by landowners.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Ashford.

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds:

There is some fair sea-fishing along the coast, mainly for mackerel, but the sport is little practised here.

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds _____

Harriers Bray Harriers.

SPORTS AND GAMES

SHOOTING

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

There is some excellent shooting in these parts but shooting grounds are almost all strictly preserved. Pheasant, woodcock and partridge abound in many of the estate lands, and the Wicklow rabbit, renowned for exceptional size, is reputed to be even larger and more plentiful here. Some deer roam freely in the grounds of Dunran, near Ashford.
Preserves: Rathnew Forest, Rathnew: This plantation of about 1,100 acres is now controlled by the Irish Land Commission (Forestry Dept.) who let the shooting rights on long or short term leases. The owners of the other lands preserve their shooting Rights under the aegis of Newrath Gun Club - Hon. Secretary, Mr. Lar. Smith, Hunter's Hotel, Newrathbridge.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club New Rath Gun Club Competitions held? Not during War.

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 Ashford G.A.A. Hon. Sec. Olive Behan.

Hurling Ashford Hurling and Camogie Clubs Hon. Sec. Olive Behan.

Bridge Club Hunter's Hotel.

Date Oct. 9. 42 (Signed) _____

Surveyor.

Amenities and General Information.
Towns and Villages (Other than Seaside)Barony of NewcastleTown or Village Ashford. Parish Ashford County WicklowLocation and brief description. Population Approx 50

A charming village situated on main Dublin-Wicklow road - 27 miles
Dublin, 3½ miles Wicklow. Centre for exploring various interesting
estates and glens of great natural beauty.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

No public sewerage or water supply systems - water is drawn from
local spring wells.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Rathnew Distance 2 miles Bus Dublin-Wicklow
Dublin-Wexford
services

Public lighting by - Electricity? E.S.B. Gas? No

DANCING

Dance hall Glen Hotel Pavilion Proprietor Mr. W. Coakley Byrne

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church R.C. Holy Rosary Services (Sundays) 8 a.m. and 11 a.m.
C. of I. Killiskey Parish Church 11.30 a.m.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Ashford Post Office at Ballinahince s.w.
route to Devil's Glen. 300 yards from Village.

Business (? M.O. Telegraph, Telephone) Telephone call office to which
messages may be telephoned for treatment as express letters, M.O.
Telegraphic.

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers Mr. E.V. Briscoe, Merchant, Ballinalea

Amenities and general Information
Towns and Villages (Other than Seaside)Photographic stores Mr. E.V. Briscoe, Merchants, Ballinaclea.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Roman Catholic National School Ashford

Roman Catholic National School Killoughter

Roman Catholic National School Ballyduff

Church of Ireland National School, Nun's Cross

FAIRS AND MARKETS; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets NoneWeekly market day None Half-Holiday Thursday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Ashford Garage (Ed. Roberts Prop.)Glen Hotel (Petrol Station Only)

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis Herbert Stevens Ashford Garage.Motors (Touring) Ditto.Horses Bel Air Hotel (Riding School attached) Horses for hire.Date Oct. 10. 42

(Signed) _____

Surveyor

Amenities and General Information.
Towns and Villages (Other than Seaside)

Barony of Newcastle
 Town or Village Glenealy Parish Ashford County Wicklow

Location and brief description. Population App. 30

Glenealy, a pretty hamlet, centre of beautifully wooded country, at the
base of Carrick Mountains. Easily accessible by bus trail
and is 31½ miles from Dublin and 4 miles from Wicklow.

Is there a Town Hall? No

Brief comment on water supply and sewerage:

No public sewerage or water supply systems; water is drawn from
convenient spring wells.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Glenealy Distance 100 Yds. Bus? G.S.R. Dublin/
Wexford service

Public lighting - by electricity? None Gas? None

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church Roman Catholic Services (Sundays) 9 a.m.

Church of Ireland alternate Sundays 10.30 a.m.

12.00 noon.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Central in Village.

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) As Ashford.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries Sawmills (John Deane)

Amenities and General Information
Towns and Villages (Other than Seaside)

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

National School (Roman Catholic) Glenealy

FAIRS AND MARKETS; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets None

Weekly market day None Half-Holiday Wednesday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Anderson's Garage.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis Anderson's Garage

Motors (Touring) Do.

Bicycles Anderson's Garage.

Date Oct.10.42 Signed _____

Surveyor.

Accommodation and Catering.Barony of NewcastleTown or Village Ashford and Glenealy, Rathnew Parish Ashford County Wicklow.

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed?
Ashford:			
<u>Bel Air Hotel</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Glen Hotel</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Hunter's Hotel Rathnew</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Glenealy Hotel</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>No</u>

GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES

Ashford:

<u>Mrs. A. Fitzpatrick</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Ballinadea</u>	
<u>Miss. Dobbs, Kiltimon</u>			
<u>Miss. Evans, Courtfoyle</u>			
<u>Mrs. Richards, Ballyhenry</u>			

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Mrs. Kennedys Tea Rooms. Ashford.Date Oct. 10.42 (Signed) _____

Surveyor

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF NewcastleTOWN OR VILLAGE ASHFORD & GLENEALY PARISH ASHFORD COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

3/2 One + one half miles from Wicklow - claimed as one of Ireland's loveliest villages - situated on the river Vaughy. The name is only 150 years old. It came into prominence with the building of the two Hotels - The Glen & Ashford. The Parish is part of the old civil Parish of Killistuff. The older part of the village - now known as Ballinalea, is called by the old residents Bonelea.

GEOLOGY

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

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTERLocation and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

ROSANNA. This mansion - built on an extensive scale ^{entirely} of Dutch bricks stands in a beautiful desmèner of over 300 acres. Most of this is laid out in rich meadow, and contains some of the finest woods in the county. The hines in particular are very beautiful as are the Spanish chestnuts. The Vaughy flows through the park, and there are extensive gardens & shrubberies. This mansion is the seat of the Tighe family, and it was amidst these beautiful surroundings that Henry Tighe got the inspiration for the poem, Psyche, which was printed there on a private press for private circulation. Wesley, on his visit to Ireland resided there, and addressed over 300 people in the Long Room. The organ on which he played is still there. Rosanna is now occupied by the Borballis family, who have a private oratory, where Mass is said every Sunday by a Jesuit Father. The painting of Henry Tighe by Pomroy is in the National Gallery.

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.

Killiskey - (Cill-Oisge - church by water.) Ruins of the old church lie in the burial grounds, - recently closed, - was the ancient church of the District, and continued as the established church after the Bishop got control of the area in the 17th Century, and continued as a church until 1801, when a new one was built at Nun's Cross, at the expense of a Mr Syngé in 1817

In the district are other old churches, notably one mile south of Killiskey - Trinity - where stands an old church in an old graveyard and also a blessed well known as Trinity well - where patterns were held until recent years.

Kilmartin. In this townland, a church of the same name was in existence when O'Curry paid a visit to the district in 1839. He found a well of great antiquity - the waters of which were believed by both Catholics & Protestant Neighbours to be an infallible cure for warts.

Inchinappa - church in total ruins in O'Curry's time. Stones from these ruins were used to build Inchinappa House - a large mansion on the main road opposite the present Catholic Church - now the residence of Mrs Logan. It is now unoccupied for some years. Tradition has it that people sleeping in the house were disturbed by noises at night after many years some stones, - though broken were taken up and bedores to alleged site of the ruins.

HISTORIC SITES

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

The Devil's Glen famous as one of the fastnesses of Holt during the 98 period.

Deputies' Pass originally built to connect Wicklow & Rathdown by Sir Wm. Russell. Lt Deputy. 1590, while the Pinks were trying to track down. Jasac Mac Aid O'Brien, having then extended the Pale to Wicklow. In May 1599 a great battle was fought in which the sons of Jasac defeated the British under Sir A. Harrington, & drove them back with great loss to Wicklow. Hugh O'Neill having sent help to the O'Bryens previously. Tradition has it that these allies settled down in Wicklow & can be traced by the names of O'Riells Brady &

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.

Devitt & McCale. Tradition also has it that 40 years later, Owen Roe O'Neill also obtained the assistance of the Wicklow Irish - and their descendants can be traced in the north - O'Byrne &c.

Castle in the townland of Ballynagran known as Mc Dermott's Castle. Tradition has it that it was to this place Dermot McMorrough brought Lady O'Rourke.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e. grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

Amplified
At Rosanna is a Spanish Chestnut, which according to Prof. Henry, Bristol, authority on trees, is the largest in Europe. This tree has been mentioned by Ripley. In the Glen of Durran a huge mass of granite, 150 ft. high, stands out from the mountain, and bears a grotesque resemblance to the human form.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Kilmartin Waterfont discovered by O'Curry. The waters of which were believed to be an infallible cure for warts.

GENEALY. AREA D. Downland of upper Ballymanus: Pattern held known as the The Pattern of barriek is held here.

② In the Downland of Ballymac Simon, a pattern on 8th Sept. - in O'Curry's time still visited by "sufferers from head aches". This stream crossed the main Ashford Genealy Road & is known as Lucky Brook. A ^{recently} couple of years ago the Co. Council built a bridge across ^{this stream} but the well has been preserved.

(Signed)

Patry

Surveyor.

DATE

Oct. 9. 42

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Newcastle

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ashford PARISH Ashford COUNTY Wicklow
Glenealy

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 Varty Nearest point to town (distance) Flow by Ashford.

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

~~Norfolk~~ Numerous Small brown t. and
Some sea t. in lower reaches.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon _____ Sea trout _____ Brown trout 1/2 lb.

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon _____ Sea trout _____ Brown trout N

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon _____
Sea trout _____
Brown trout Usual flies.

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Stretch at Devils Glen. Preserved by Miss Tottenham landowners.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Ashford

Local Angling Club _____ Membership Fee _____

Secretary (and Address) _____

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

*There is some fair sea-fishing along
the coast, mainly for mackerel,
but very little sea trout is
little practised here.*

Kinds of fish to be caught :

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

Bait available locally ?

Fishing tackle ?

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

GOLFING

Name of Club

No. of holes

Situation and brief description of course :

Name of Professional

Is there a clubhouse on course ?

Licensed ?

Green fees (Visitors) : Per day

Per week

Ashford

Shooting

There is some excellent shooting in these parts but shooting grounds are ~~now~~ almost all strictly preserved.

Pheasant, woodcock and partridge abound on many of the estate lands, and the Wicklow rabbit, renowned for exceptional size, is reputed to be even larger and more plentiful here.

On the grounds of Dunsan, near Ashford, Some deer roam freely ←

Reserves.

Rathnew Forest, Rathnew: This plantation of about 1,100 acres is now controlled by the Irish Land Commission (Forestry Dept.) who let the shooting rights on long ~~and~~ ^{or} short term leases.

~~The other lands~~ The owners of the other lands preserve their shooting rights under the aegis of ~~the~~ Newrath Gun Club — ^{Hon.} Secretary, Mr. J. Smith, Hunter's Hotel, Newrath Bridge.

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 *br*

Harriers *Bray 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:

See Supp. sheet

controlled by a syndicate of farmers, who call their club - the New Ralk Gun club. MR. Lar. Smith Hon. Sec. C/o Hunters Hotel, Rough shooting - Pheasant, grouse woodcock snipe had Rathnew Forest. Letting by Irish Land Commission.

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

Shooting Club *Rathnew Forest (shooting rights vested in Irish Land Comm. (Irish Dept) from whom lettings may be obtained when available)* Secy

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

X Name of Club *New Ralk Gun Club* Competitions held? *Not during war.*

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 ASHFORD G.A.A. Hon. Sec. Oliver Behan.
Ashford Hurling and Camogie Clubs
 Hurling (one) (2) Camogie. Hon Sec Do.
 Handball / Handball alley? /
 Soccer /
 Rugby /
 Cricket /
 Hockey /
 Bowls /
 Bowling (on public roads) /
 Lawn Tennis / Kinds of courts /
 Croquet /
 Billiards /
 Badminton /
 Table Tennis /
 Bridge Club Hunter's Hotel.
 Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing) /

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club / 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 /
/
/
/
/

DATE 10.9.42 (Signed) [Signature] Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Newcastle

TOWN OR VILLAGE ASHFORD PARISH ASHFORD COUNTY WICKLOW

Location and brief description.

Population approx. 300

Sullivan Wicklow

Extremely pretty village situated on main Road - 27 miles Dublin, 3 1/2 miles Wicklow. Centre for exploring various interesting estates + glens of great natural beauty.

Is there a Town Hall? Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

no sewerage. no water supply except wells. No public sewerage or water supply systems - water is drawn from local spring wells.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Rathnew Distance 2 miles Bus? Dublin-Wick
Dublin-Wexford
Public lighting by—Electricity? E. S. B. Gas? Services

DANCING

Dance hall Pavilion Glen Hotel Proprietor Mr W. Coakley, Byrne
Mrs Gannon
leased to Mr. J. Healy.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas Pictures shown
(nights)

Theatre Kind of shows
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *R. Cath. Holy Rosary* Services (Sundays) *8 am & 11 am*

C. J. Killisley Parish Church *11.30 am*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Ashford P.O. at Ballinacurch in route to Deah's Glen. 200 yards from village.*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) ~~General Business~~

Telephone call office to which messages may be telephoned for treatment as papers letters
BANKING *M.O. Telegraphic*

Banks.....

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *Mr E. V. Briscoe, Merchant, Ballinalea*

Photographic Stores *Mr E. V. Briscoe* " " " "

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....

Public Baths?..... Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Cultural Societies

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

R. b. National Sch. Ashford.

R. b. " " Killoughter.

R. b. " " Ballyduff.

C. J. " " nun's cross.

HOSPITALS

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Ashford Garage. (Ed. Roberts Prop)
Slieve Hotel. (Petrol Pumps only)
Station only

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *Humbert Stevens*
Ashford Garage

Motors (Touring) *ditto*

Boats (State type).....

Bicycles.....

Caravans.....

Horses *Bel Air Hotel (Riding School attached)*
Horses for hire
Riding School

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE *6/7/42*

(Signed).....

[Signature]
Surveyor.

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *R. C.*..... Services (Sundays) *9 am.*

B of D...... *alternate Sundays* *10.30 am.*
12 noon.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *Central, in village.*

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

BANKING

Cy Ashford

Banks.....

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores.....

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... Location.....

Public Baths?..... Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs

Cultural Societies

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries

Saw-mills, run by (John Lane.)

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

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Nat. School. (R. b.) Glenealy.

HOSPITALS

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets.....

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Andersons Garage.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *Andersons Garage.*

Motors (Touring) *Do.*

Boats (State type).....

Bicycles *Andersons Garage.*

Caravans.....

Horses.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

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

Local Improvements Committee.....

Secretary.....

DATE *Oct 70 42*

(Signed)

[Signature]
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING.

BARONY OF Newcastle

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ashford & Glenealy Rathnew. PARISH Ashford COUNTY Wicklow

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?
<u>Ashford</u> Bel Air Hotel	<u>14</u> ¹⁸	<u>2</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Hunter's Hotel	<u>16</u> ¹⁵	<u>2</u>	<u>Yes</u> <small>el. gas free wireless</small>
<u>Glenealy Hotel</u> <small>newest bridge</small> } <u>Rathnew</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>No</u>
<u>Ashford</u> Glen Hotel	<u>12</u> ⁴	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes</u>

Guest or Boarding Houses

✓ Mr. A. Fitzpatrick 5
Ballinadea Ashford
Miss Dobbs Kiltinon
Miss Evans Courtfoyle
Mrs. Richard Ballyhenry } ASHFORD.

Restaurants and Cafés

Mrs Kennedy's Sea Rooms. ASHFORD.

DATE 6/1/04 (Signed) [Signature] Surveyor.

(Plain sheet of foolscap to be used if space here is not adequate)

Down or Village Ashford.

Parish Ashford, County Wicklow

GLANMORE CASTLE. On a lofty eminence adjacent to Nun's Cross, stands Glanmore Castle, the home of the Synge family. The mansion is large, built in a castellated style and was originally the seat of the Byrnes. John Millington Synge, the playwright, resided there at various periods. The castle, now closed, is owned by his eldest brother, R. A. Synge. A younger brother, Rev. Dr. Synge, is pastor of Annamoy and has many relics of the playwright.

Bronkor House. Now the Bel Air Hotel is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from Ashford, was the residence of a branch of the basement family. The late Sir Roger basement paid many visits there. The large - plain house is backed by the "Great Rock of Bronkor," from which extensive views may be obtained. It is interesting to note that here dwelled once, Isaac Ambrose Eccles, a distinguished literary character and an ingenious editor of Shakespearean plays.

BALLYCURRY House, seat of the Tottenham family is now famous mainly as the location of the "Devil's Glen" - a wonderful mountain pass, rich in shrubs & flowers, through which a foaming torrent rushes to join the Varty. At the head of the Glen is a fine waterfall, dropping into the "Devil's Punch Bowl," a deep basin in the rocks below. Midway, steps lead up to the View Rocks - from which one can see Wicklow, the Sugarloaf & the Sea. It is interesting to note that the Tottenham of his day voted against the Act of Union. Admission to the Devil's Glen - week days free. Sundays 2^d. Tickets from Teanac & Synmote in Ashford village. Motor 2/- every day.

Kiltimon House 7 miles from Wicklow is the home of the Seagrave family, notably, Sir Henry Seagrave the celebrated motorist. Nearby are the beautiful woods of Dunran, with its ruined Castle. This is a narrow defile, luxuriously wooded on one side, with a granite mountain on the other. This area has now been taken over by Deputy Bellon who employs 300 men to cut down the beautiful trees as fast as he can.

Dwelling

Dwelling
1870-1872

Barony Newcastle. A

Mansions

Village ASHFORD.

PARISH Ashford.

COUNTY Wicklow

Hunter's Hotel at Newrath Bridge, stands on the main Dublin-Wicklow coach road, and in former times was a famous hostelry. In 1825 Sir Walter Scott and party visited the district, as witnessed by an letter extract from a letter written by his son-in-law Lockhart to Mrs Lockhart, dated 18th July 1825. This hangs in the foyer of the hotel.

"... at noon set out for Wicklow by Rathfernham, Lough Breagh etc., along with Mr. Brampton, a very lively, clever, and agreeable man, in face, manners, and even, I think, in style of talk, strongly resembling Sir H. Davy. Magnificent view of Dublin and the bay as we ascended the hill. Savage desolation, equal to anything in the Highlands, except the comparative of the hill about Lough Breagh.... Down the valley to Powerscourt, a grand demesne with very grand trees. The Dargle, superior even to its fame - an indiscriminately beautiful mixture of wood, water, rocks, hill valleys... Down by Dunman to the Devil's Glen, which is a glen with woods & crags & a stream brawling below not unlike many in Scotland. Though, I think, rather on a more extensive scale than any I can remember there. Passed through the grounds of several gentlemen, and of course, saw the exterior of many charming places - Kilriddery, Lord Meath's Seat, a new gothic chateau, surrounded with very fine antique gardens, the scene of "The Irish Hunt-Posanna", the scene of Miss Edgeworth's tale, a purposefully beautiful lane with oak boughs reaching clear over it. Luncheon at Newrath, and dinner (late) at old Bonnaught near Bray, the seat of the Attorney General, Plunkett..."

60.10.42

Baronet - Newcastle A Mansions

Village Ashford. PARISH ASHFORD. COUNTY Wicklow

MOUNT USHER GARDENS. Entrance fee. 1/- No admission Saturdays Sundays or Bank Holidays. Situated on the Main Road, left-hand side $\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond Ashford - is a unique botanical experiment. Begun by the great-grandfather of the present head of the Walpole family, and has flourished phenomenally since. Most of the credit is due to Mr Fox - deceased - the head gardener - as admitted by the Walpole family. Wood, shrub, flower & fern have attracted botanists from all over the world.

Oct 70. 42

[Signature]

Ashford.

Historic Sites.

Deputies' Pass, about 1 1/2 miles S.W. of Skewals, was built in 1590 by Sir Wm Russell, Lord Deputy, in order to connect Kichlan and Rathdrum and thus facilitate the English Cruisers who were being constantly harrassed in their efforts to conquer this territory by the local Irish chieftains, ^{most active} chief of whom was Fiach Mac Hugh O'Byrne.

Genealy. It was in this district that Keats found inspiration for his poem "Cathleen and St Kevin" - Cathleen being a maiden from Genealy and

Kilnamanagh. About the end of the 6th century, a ^{famous} monastic school flourished here under the control of St. Eoghan or Enghinnis, who became Bishop of Ardagh and who is now revered as the patron Saint of Derry Diocese. St. Eoghan was the uncle of St. Kevin, and spent some time ~~Genealy~~ in this school of learning and piety, and was pressed to succeed his uncle as head of the school when Eoghan departed to the rest ⁱⁿ ~~here~~.

Hill Town. ~~The remains of an old castle can be found here.~~ James II is believed to have found shelter in this castle when fleeing from the Boyne.

St. Kevin declined the honours however and retired to a secluded hermitage before founding his Glendalough School.

The Devil's Glen. This deep, natural fastness was ~~popular~~ frequented by the insurgent band led by Joseph Holt in the Insurrection of 1798.

Deputy's Pass.

This wooded defile, to the S. of Carrick Mountain and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Gleneady, was constructed ^{by the Lord Deputy} at the close of the 16th cent. to facilitate the English troops in their efforts to counter the destructive raids of the Irish sept's under each Mac Hugh O'Byrne.

AshfordAntiquities.

In this district the Ruins of several churches of considerable antiquity are found, but their origin and history are generally vague.

Killiskey Church. This ruin lies in ~~the~~ ^a now desolved burial ground about 2 miles N. of Ashford. It would appear to be of very old ~~to~~ have been erected at an early date for, ~~it~~ on the subjection of the area by the British in the 17th century, the Catholics were dispossessed and ~~it~~ ^{was} continued in use ~~as a~~ by the Established Church. On the erection of the new church at Navis Cross in 1817, Killiskey was abandoned.

Trinity Church ~~near Ashford~~, about one mile S. of Killiskey also appears to date back to an early period and, at the blessed well nearby, patterns were held annually until recent years.

There were other old foundations ~~at~~ ^{thereabouts,} most of which have now disappeared and notable amongst these were Kilmartin and Inchinappa.

Kilmartin, ^{Killaughter, Kilfla} and Inchinappa are notable amongst the other religious foundations which flourished in this neighbourhood and ~~almost~~ ^{many} all of which have now almost completely disappeared.

Ballyvolan Castle. On the lands of Ballyvolan House, ^{near} the southern extremity of Ballyvolan Glen, are the scant remains of an ancient Castle in which, it is said, James II found refuge on his flight from the Boyne. Numerous finds have been made near this site, including skeletons and burnt wood, and, in a nearby mar-pit, a ^{large} horn containing Elizabethan silver coins - most of these discoveries were made over a century ago.

2

Ashford Ph.

Antiquities

Mac Dermott's Castle. Vestiges of this ancient fortress are found in the mound and fosse at Ballynagran townland, east of Seenealy. There is evidence here of a square fort, over 100' each side and a remnant of the side wall of the entrance hole is visible on the S. ~~side~~ side.

Local tradition asserts that it was to this castle that Dermott MacMurrough brought Derborgilla, the wife of O'Rourke of Burrene.

At Kilcaudra, $\frac{1}{2}$ ml. nw., a large rath, 50 yds. in diameter, ~~is~~ is said to have contained a church and burial ground of the Mac Dermotts of the nearby castle.

1) Ashford - Topography
The district surrounding the little villages of Ashford and Glencaly,
contains some of the wildest and yet most attractive scenery in the
County. Glens and defiles, mountains and hills, sea, pastures
and woodlands of the tastefully ornamental demesnes - all unite
in a series of romantic settings that have inspired poets, writers
and painters ~~and artists~~ of every generation and have been the
delight of countless thousands of visitors from all parts of the world.

The celebrated Devil's Glen lies about a mile ~~to the~~ n.w.
of Ashford. This deep rocky chasm is enclosed on both sides by
precipitous craggy cliffs which, with their heavy clothing of trees and
shrubs, interspersed with rugged masses of bare barren rocks, are in
themselves an ^{imposing} magnificent sight. Far down below, ^{in its narrow rocky bed,} the Vartry
River, a brawling mountain torrent, rushes seawards between
its ~~steep narrow rocky banks~~ steep banks. On entering
at the head of the glen, the river falls from a height of almost a
hundred feet and forms a magnificent cascade before dropping
into the "Devil's Punch Bowl", a deep basin in the rock below.

Walks have been constructed at a considerable elevation, and
from these and the winding pathways which lead round the glen,
some really splendid views ~~of~~ are obtained. Midway through the glen,
steps lead up to the ~~of~~ "View Rock" ^{from} which ^{downwards} rare views of the Sugarloaf
mountains, the sea and Wicklow town.

The glen is open to pedestrians and motorists, the former being
admitted free on week-days and on paying 2^d on Sundays; motor cyclists
pay 1/- and motorists 2/- every day. Admission tickets are procurable at
Ashford business establishments.

There are numerous other glens and mountain hollows in
this region and each and every possesses individual characteristics
which ~~are~~ excite feelings of awe or pleasurable surprise. Surren Glen,
^{near KILLESKEY,} is amongst the most notable of these and features, amongst other attractions,
several fantastic rock formations. One such formation is the remarkable
"Bishop's Rock", so named because of its resemblance to a mitre.

The mountains on the w. side contribute appreciably to the scenic grandeur
of the locality, and, on every side, the profusion of luxuriant trees and
shrubs add colour and variety to the scenery.

Ashford is 27 miles from Dublin and ~~4~~ from Wicklow and Glencaly is
3 1/2 and 4 miles distant, respectively.

GLANMORE CASTLE (cont'd). Joseph Holt, Insurrectionist leader of '98, found refuge in the glens around the Glanmore estate following the rising—Glanmore occupied one of the most beautiful choice sites near the opening to the Devil's Glen. Holt had previously been employed, ^{for a number of years} by Francis Synge as deputy-overseer on the estate.

A great grandson of this Francis Synge, John Hatch Synge, married in 1856, Kathleen Drail of Schull, Co. Cork. The youngest of their four sons, John Millington Synge was to become famous as the author of several brilliant plays; his most famous works are "Playboy of the Western World" and "Riders to the Sea". J. M. Synge was born near Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, in 1871 and was a frequent visitor to the ancestral home, Glanmore, where he resided at various periods.

The last owner of the property was the late Mr R. A. Synge, eldest brother of John. The playwright

CRONROE HOUSE—NEW BEL AIR HOTEL. Situated about

half a mile from Ashford, Cronroe House was once the home of the Casement family and Sir Roger Casement ^(who was of another branch of the family?) paid many visits here. Isaac Ambrose Eccles, a distinguished Shakespearean commentator and publisher of several of Shakespeare's works, also lived at Cronroe where he died in 1809. He has been described as "A profound scholar, a perfect gentleman, an ornament to society".

This large plain edifice is backed by the "Great Rock of Cronroe", from which extensive views of the surrounding glens and countryside are obtainable.

HUNTER'S HOTEL, NEWRATHBRIDGE.

This establishment has long been celebrated ^{and} celebrated even more than a century ago, for beauty of situation and for the excellent standards which the proprietors maintained. Hostelry even more than a century ago and a letter which hangs in the foyer testifies to a visit paid there by Sir Walter Scott, his son-in-law, the Lockhart, and their party; the letter is dated 18th July 1825, and is addressed to Mrs Lockhart. ^{See over.} ^(Account of their time in Wicklow)

**AUCTION SALE AT OUR COLLEGE GREEN SALEROOMS
ON WEDNESDAY, 17th JUNE, at 2.30 p.m.
KILTIMON, NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY, CO. WICKLOW
ON 53 STATUTE ACRES**

**A COMMANDINGLY SITUATED, STATELY, PERIOD RESIDENCE
(Birthplace of the late Sir Henry Segrave).**



With a profusion of magnificent trees and flowering shrubs. On the main Wicklow road in a situation of surpassing beauty, with southern views of the sea and Wicklow Head. Majestically wooded grounds, with massive oaks a feature. Central heating, wired for electric light (mains available), telephone, excellent water supply (spring well). Large hall and 5 reception rooms, hall level kitchen, offices, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, etc. Unused basement (5 rooms) with 2 h. and c. sinks, Beeston boiler, central heating furnace, etc. Range of out-buildings, mainly two-storey. One acre 15ft. high walled garden, ornamental lakes. The lands mainly comprise woods with about 15 acres pasture and some parkland grazing. Fee Simple primarily liable to Fee Farm Rent of £37-9-0. Seen only by appointment. Solicitor: MAURICE E. VEALE, Esq., 6 Lr. Baggot Street, Dublin.

**AUCTION SALE AT OUR COLLEGE GREEN SALEROOMS
ON WEDNESDAY, 24th JUNE, at 2.30 p.m.
MILLBROOK HOUSE, STRAFFAN, CO. KILDARE
ON ABOUT 125 STATUTE ACRES**

**18 MILES DUBLIN. ADJOINING PICTURESQUE STRAFFAN VILLAGE
A DELIGHTFULLY CIRCUMSTANCED PROPERTY OF VERY REAL CHARM
AND CHARACTER. SOCIAL AND SPORTING CENTRE**

most distinguished connection of the Segrave family who have long resided here. The house is close to Queen's Castle and the ~~water~~ ^{with} ~~is~~ ^{is} 7 miles from Wicklow.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes and scribbles, possibly including the name 'O'Neal Segrave' and 'boat racing fame']

Kilfinnora House - near Dunman Castle

7 miles from Wicklow, this has long been the residence of the Segrave family, of whom which the late Major Henry O'Neal Segrave, was a motor,

Speed-boat and flying ace, was a famous

personality. The late Sir Henry O'Neal Segrave, a celebrated motor and Speed-boat racing fame, was a most distinguished connection of the Segrave family who have long resided here. The house is close to Dunman Castle and the ~~road~~ ^{road} ~~is~~ ^{is} 7 miles from Wicklow.

(2)

Ashford Geology.

Apart from the many wild glens and rocky defiles, much of which may be termed waste land, there are considerable tracts of rich agricultural land and some bog in this area. The main geological formations are Cambrian and Lower Silurian. Granite is found in some places and coal is quite frequently met with.



Mansions etc.

Rosanna. This ^{splendid, old} manor stands in extensive grounds a short distance from Ashford and convenient to the romantic Devil's Glen. It lies ~~near the banks of the Vartry River and in the~~

~~in a verdant hollow near the Vartry River, surrounded by~~
The house is an example of elegant simplicity in design and

~~English brick houses~~ lies in a verdant hollow of rich meadowland ^{surrounded by thick planted high slopes,} near the Vartry River. The ^{high} slopes on both banks of the river are dotted with luxuriant trees which rank with the finest in the county - the lime and splendid Spanish Chestnuts being particularly impressive. One enormous Spanish Chestnut has ^{been figured} been featured in Riple's famous "Believe It or Not" series and has been classified by Professor Henry, celebrated British arborist, as the largest of its kind in Europe. See Note X

~~Her residence~~ ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{the} ~~home~~ ^{of} the ~~high~~ ^{highly} ~~fine~~ ^{fine} and ~~it~~ ^{was} amidst these ^{beautiful} ~~exquisite~~ surroundings that Mary Dighe the authoress of "Psyche" found inspiration for her ~~own~~ ^{own} exquisite poem.

Born in Dublin in October 1772 (her father, the Rev. Wm. Blackford, was librarian to Marsh's Library, Dublin, for a number of years) Mary Dighe showed early signs of talent and beauty and ^{at an early age} she became the centre of attraction at the viceregal court where she frequently visited. In 1793, at the age of 21, she married her cousin, Henry Dighe, Barrister at the Middle Temple, and ^{came} ~~went~~ to live at Rosanna, her mother's former home. The marriage proved rather unhappy, ^{Woods, Killoole,} Dighe's health failed, and she died, a consumptive, in her 38th year at ^{the} home of her brother-in-law; she was buried at Inisloge.

In view of the stir which her poetry created some one and a half centuries ago, surprisingly little is known of Mary Dighe's private life, but a painting by Romney, depicting her as a young and very beautiful woman hangs in the National Gallery. ~~X X~~ See note.

Ashford — Mansions cont'd.

(3)
Rosanna (cont'd).

Paying tribute to the poetic ability of ^{Mrs. Liche} ~~the author~~,
Sir James Mackintosh said of her ~~own~~ poem, "Psyche," that the last
three cantos were "of surpassing beauty and beyond all doubt
the most faultless series of verses ever produced by a woman."
"Psyche" was printed ^{at Rosanna} for private circulation. ~~on the printing-~~
~~press at Rosanna.~~

Another celebrated personality with whom Rosanna
has associations, ^{also with} ~~was~~ John Wesley, who was ^{when on a} ~~was~~ ^{guest} there ^{on the occasion of a} ~~was~~
himself of the hospitality of the then owners ^{on the occasion of a}
visit to Ireland. He addressed over 200 people in the long Room
and the organ on which he played on that occasion may still be
seen in the house.

The property is now owned by the Corballis family
and (neither the demesne nor house is open to the public.

Mars is celebrated by a joint ^{on} ~~every~~ ^{on} Sundays in the little
private oratory attached at the ~~main~~ ^{main} house.

Marie Edgeworth's Book - The Adventure / ~~Convent~~

St. H's.
K.G.
L.P.
G.P.
M.P.
1859

Mansions

Rosanna

Asford Parish

Insert under (X)

These lands were formed part of the O'Byrnes patrimony up to the time of James I, but was in the possession of James I Sir W^m Parsons in 1606. It was let and sub. let to other tenants until in 1741, when Richard Digne, Keeper of the Records at the Birmingham Tower, Dublin Castle, obtained a 999 yrs. lease of half the estate; ~~and~~ he secured a 900 yrs. lease of the remainder in the following year. There was a mill but no ~~town~~ residence at that time and to him is accredited the original construction of the present mansion.

(Under XX)

Thomas Moore was a close friend of the poetess and a frequent visitor at Rosanna where it is said that he composed ~~many~~ ^{some} of his sonnets whilst she set them to music. Mrs Digne was an accomplished harpist and many of until recently at least, her harp was preserved in the house. It is believed that the novelist, Maria Edgeworth, wrote one of her popular books at Rosanna. ~~The grounds are not open to the public.~~

Newview etc. Ashford Parish

John A.

0
Mount Usher GARDENS

This beautiful gardened demesne lies along the valley of the River Vartry, quite close to Ashford village. The origin of the Gardens is traced back through three generations of the Walpole family, to Mr Edward Walpole who, in 1868, ~~had~~ ^{had} procured a lease of the old mill which then existed here — together with the small plot of land, a little over one acre in all, ^{cleared the ground of its cabbages and potatoes.} The Walpole, ^{planted} trees and shrubs and flowers in their place. He transferred his interest in the property to three of his sons seven years later and by gradual stages the little plot was ~~extended~~ ^{added} to and improved.

The Vartry was ^{cleverly} harnessed to be utilised to the ~~very~~ best possible advantage for the purposes of watering and beautifying the gardens, the old mill house was replaced by a somewhat larger residence, and ~~paths~~ pathways and avenues were constructed.

The Walpoles were amongst the first to approve of and put into practice the revolutionary gardening theories of William Robinson who advocated that trees and shrubs be allowed to grow in a more or less natural manner. The expert counsel and assistance of the late Sir Edward Moore, eminent horticulturist, were always at the disposal of these enthusiastic amateurs ~~and~~ who readily sought and availed themselves of his expert ^{and friendly} advice.

The bridges which ~~have~~ span the Vartry afford some attractive views along the river banks where irises, globe flowers and many primula species flourish in the moist soil. Here and there handsome *Lysichiton americanum*, with its distinguished yellow spathe, as well as various astilbes and spiraeas, are also found near the edge of the water lily pond. In the shade of the tall alders near the pond many hardy plants and some select trees ^{plants} and shrubs have been ideally grouped. Amongst these are the tree-sized *Acacia dealbata*, the crimson-lanterned *Tricuspisaria lanceolata*, *Euonymus Bungeanus*, *Leptospermum Chapmanii* — a mass of deep pink blossom! ^{Some fine magnolia specimens and a last year's} and several species of hybrid *Rhododendrons*.

Rock and ~~above~~ ^{near the river} a number of rocky beds ^{accommodate}

Mansions etc. Ashford

John A.

Mount Usher - Contd.

many rock and alpine specialities. A path beyond the rock beds leads to the high-walled nurseries and, further on, a little summer-house provides a pretty view of the house across the river. The lawn, which stretches between here and the house, is flanked by Japanese maples ^{including the beautiful pink Coral-bark Maple,} and the river banks are fringed with mimulus and primulas. Choice climbers ^{the walls and} adorn the stems and branches of many of the trees. and

The wood lies to the south and west of the house and here an almost sub-tropical effect is produced by the luxuriant growth of trees and shrubs which have been allowed to grow together in a natural way without any serious attempt at artificial order. The most remarkable specimens Each plant has been given the most favourable spot in which it might best flourish and amongst the most remarkable specimens ^{which will command the admiration of the visitor} ~~at the house~~ ^{Bursera} ^{Sapia} ^{Agathis australis} Spinosa - about 20 feet high and bearing creamy white flowers, Camellia reticulata, Myrtus Luma - over 20 ft. tall and the rare Chinese holly, Ilex Fargessii. ~~are all likely to well command the admiration of the visitor.~~

The Mill Race flows between deep narrow banks which are planted on both sides with a rich assortment of ferns. ~~Under these~~ For the convenient examination of these, a gangway, has been laid along the course of the stream, ^{a few inches over the water,} and the visitor may walk along this and inspect the novel fernery with ease.

^{See further mention to be in case of} ~~See further mention to be in case of~~ here space to permit here, a detailed account of the beautiful Rose Walk and the other charming corners of ~~the gardens~~ ^{Mount Usher} would be ~~of interest~~ ^{of interest} ~~to those who appreciate such very appropriate, but those who are~~ ^{very appropriate, but those who are} really interested in such places may be assured at any rate that the Gardens rank with the finest in these islands and are well worthy of a visit.

Mr E. H. Walpole, grandson of the founder, is the present proprietor and is also an ardent ^{gardening} enthusiast. The Gardens are open to the public on week-days. A charge of 1/6 per person is made and tickets may be obtained at Messrs Walpole (Island) Ltd., 11 Suffolk Street, Dublin. The Gardens are closed to visitors on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Maudslowi.

Ashford Ph.

Form A.

to be inserted under mark (X) in ^{second} first sheet on
Mount Usher

^{Amidst} ~~Amongst~~ the countless varieties of trees, plants and shrubs
in the Gardens, native plants of New Zealand, Japan, China,
Australia and Tasmania, ^{the Americas,} Ceylon, Africa, the Himalayas and
other far-separated lands thrive luxuriantly in a galaxy of
planned confusion wherein ~~are~~ some of the most valuable of Irish
plants find fitting place. Towering high above the majority of the
other trees, a fine assemblage of Eucalyptus trees of ^{various} differing species,
some of them more than one hundred feet high, never fails to
excite the interest of the visitor and is one of the outstanding features
of the Gardens.

41

Historic Houses.

Ashford.

~~Several other notable residences~~

There are several other dwellings in this area ~~deserving of special attention and worthy of~~ and though all are not open to the public, each, ~~thanks~~ in its ~~own~~ artistic cultivation, adds to the natural charm of the country side. Some of them have associations with the history or with some

Dun Rann. Castle.

Sir Jonah Barrington (1760-1834), one time Judge of the Admiralty, ^{Member of Parliament} and author of "Historic Memoirs" (afterwards published as "The Rise and Fall of the Irish Nation") resided here for a period. ~~He~~ In his "Recollections" he mentions how ^{Swilly after the 1798 Rising,} the former owner, Countess Dowager of Mayo, discovered a man in hiding under her bed and immediately left the house. ~~and~~ She went to live in England and on her disposing of the property, Barrington secured a cheap purchase. It is of interest to note in connection with Barrington that he was removed from the bench for misappropriation of Court fees, that he voted against the Union and yet ~~prevented~~ was instrumental on behalf of the government in getting another M.P. to vote for the same measure which he publicly condemned and exposed in his writings. He resided in France from 1809, dying at Versailles in 1834. He had been M.P. for Duam, Clogher and Banagher.

The Castle is now in ruins? (Continued on Sheet -)

Glanwood Castle. This ~~is~~ spacious castellated mansion stood on a lofty eminence, adjacent to Minis Cross, about 1 mile from Ashford, until its demolition about 1943. It was for about two centuries the home of the Syng family, ^{members of which} ~~who~~ in ~~the~~ ^{the} course of ^{three hundred} years had occupied ^{and many other high offices} nine bishoprics, and ^{one Arch-bishopric in} the Church of Ireland. ^{whose original name was Millington.} The Syngs were an old Shropshire family, and it is said that the name Syng was conferred ^{by Elizabeth} on one member of the family who sang in Her Majesty's choir at the Chapel Royal.

Ashford

Mansions etc.

Dunrae (cont'd)

Dunrae has recently been purchased by Mr Patrick Belton, T.D., Bellevue, Killybeg, Co. Dublin, and the spacious mansion is untenanted presently. Ideally situated on a height, the house ~~overlooks~~ overlooks ~~the~~ the romantic Devil's Glen, the Wicklow hills and, ⁱⁿ the immediate foreground, the colourful demesne grounds; on a clear day the ^{eastward} view is extended for a great distance over the St. George's Channel until, on the far side, the Snowdon and other mountain peaks in Wales are discernible. An underground passage connects the mansion with the circular, granite-walled garden ^{which is sheltered by natural projections} ~~which is sheltered by natural projections~~ ~~the~~ ~~garden~~ ~~is~~ ~~an~~ ~~effective~~ ~~sun-trap~~ ~~and~~ ~~highly~~ ~~productive~~ ~~in~~ ~~several~~ ~~varieties~~ ~~of~~ ~~sub-tropical~~ ~~plants~~. Exotic blooms, indeed, are a feature of the garden, and fig trees too bear their fruit in the open without artificial aid. Magnificent rhododendrons grow profusely throughout the demesne grounds and ~~have~~ ~~highly~~ ~~hardy~~ ~~and~~ ~~add~~ ~~an~~ ~~effect~~ of warm, ~~bright~~ cheerfulness. Wild deer roam at large amongst the woodlands and glen of the estate and pheasant, woodcock and other game are very plentiful.

An old castle ruin, still in a fair condition, stands within the garden near the house. The castle formerly belonged to the O'Byrnes, chieftains in this district, and, during the '98 Rising, a party of insurgents took refuge here for a time.

Visitors will be freely admitted to the grounds on application to the proprietor or to the caretaker at Dunrae.

Village

Ashford

Parish

Ashford.

County

Wicklow

Ashford Catholic Church. The first stone of the present church was laid in 1918. The church was dedicated in 1918. Adjoining is its predecessor built about 1801 or 1802 - now fallen into disuse. The original church was at Ballymacahara, was burnt by Yeomen in 1798. The original parish embraced Ashford area, Rathnew & Wicklow Town.

On the "New Line" which is a road connecting the the Newcastle - Rathnew road with the present main Dublin - Wicklow Road are the following

① Ballyvolan House, Drims, now Bullenore are the remains of ancient fortification, from which some years back, battle equipment was excavated.

②. 300 yds off the "new line" off Kellooghtie Lane in the remains of an old chapel. Daniel Norris's Land. Was visited by D. J. Price.

③. In the townlands of Rathmoss Ballyvolan Ballynollen, Courtfoyle several old forts or Rath's were noted in Clurys's time. Several are still traceable.

④ In the townland of Bally-macahara was a holy well - according to Donovan's Survey in 1839. Called Bridget's well or JOHN BRIGID -

⑤ Church of Kiper - Remains of this church exists in an old burial ground adjacent to the present Protestant church at Nun's Cross.

⑥ Bastle at Milltown. Remains can be traced. James II is alleged to have stayed there on his flight from the Boyne. On a stream between Milltown & Rathnew about 1/2 mile in from Rathnew where the Rathnew Wicklow roads fork is shown a part of the stream called

Handwritten notes:
 5/8.10.42

Village Ashford. Parish Ashford County Wicklow

Boil Hole. James II is alleged to have washed his hands here, after having been torn by briars.

(D) The old Church of Kulloughitee - part remains in the graveyard - recently closed in the Townland of that name.

GLENEALY. GLANELY. - The glen of Ely - whether Ely is the name of a chief is lost in antiquity. In the townland of Killnamanagh. (Hontswood) was a famous school under the control of St. Fochan - who later became the patron saint of Derry. Moore got here the inspiration for his famous poem - Cathleen & St Kevin - Cathleen being a maiden from Glenealy while St Kevin, ^{who} was educated at the monastery controlled by the Saint - came from the neighbouring parish of Barondarrig

? Ballycullen Hill Cromlechs here has been visited by (D.J.) Price.

District Justice.

[Signature]

65.10.42