

Oct 24/5/45

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I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Arklow

TOWN OR VILLAGE Avoca PARISH Avoca COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

This beautiful valley, comprising hill, wood and stream is situated on the main Dublin - Arklow road, 4 1/4 miles from the former, and 6 from the latter. It was formerly known as Avoca + Obocan. At the northern end the "Hiding of the Waters" has been made famous by Tom Moore - the "Hiding" being the confluence of the Avonmore, and Avonbeg - while at the south is Woodenbridge, where these vales meet. In the centre stands the "Bellrock" from which magnificent views of the valley are obtainable. Unfortunately the mining operations during the last century had somewhat spoiled the beauty of the valley.

GEOLOGY

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

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Shelton abbey. Beautiful estate of 1700 acres, owned by Lord Wicklow. Reputed to be an old Cistercian abbey, and rebuilt in the style of Shelton Abbey in England by the Wicklow family. Is in very good condition, and beautifully laid out with gardens and flowers. The Rhododendrons are the principal features. One of the three entrances has a 4-mile drive embanked on both sides with these bushes of various colours. The grounds are not open to the public. The estate agent informs me that Lord Wicklow, who is now away, has given details of the antiquities to Mr Justice Price. King James II on his flight from the Battle of the Boyne, spent a night at the Abbey, and the road he came by is still called the "King's Road".

Ballyarthur - the residence of Major Barry, a mansion in Tudor style, amid beautiful gardens & well wooded estate. From the octagon a splendid panorama of the happy union of the four valleys of Arklow, Avoca, Aughrim & Goldmine is obtained. Castle Howard - the stately residence of Col. Brook Howard, but now owned by Mr. De Troy, who does not occupy it. The views from the Castle turrets are magnificent - the ceilings & library are very fine, the former being of French design. Open to public on application at Hill Lodge via Lion Arch Bridge.

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.

The district is rich in historical and ecclesiastical remains, namely, Digrooney, Kilmagiq, Kilcashel, Kilmacoo Kilpatrick, Kilbride, Dempleerainy, Demplemichael, Demplelusk, Ballintemple, Ennessilly, Ballycooge. At Digrooney (Dr Joyce's "History of Place Names"), is the ancient church or house of the Romans, where Palladius erected a church before St Patrick came to Ireland. This church is believed to be the first Catholic church built in Ireland. Hence, to mark the event, there is but one town of that name in the county. It is said, Kilmagiq, or the Church of the Windy Plain, was built by St. Patrick, where he landed in Ardaraun. Portion of the stone doorway may be seen in the little cemetery beside it.

Kilcashel, the Church of the circular stone fort. Numerous stones from the church are to be found in the townland - bearing in their shape the meaning of the original name.

Kilmacoo, or the church of St. Mochua. The ruins are still plainly visible between Bullen's & Nolan's farms, at a place called Beggars Lane, in the townland of Kilmacoo.

Kilpatrick - the Church of Patrick - stood in the field which is still shown as Chapelbank, next to Upper Kilpatrick Road. Two thorns, one large, one small, point to the probable site of the ancient church.

Kilbride - the Church of Bridget - may be. Traces of this church may be found in the cemetery attached to that particular district in Avoca Parish.

Dempleerainy & Demplemichael, church of the Romans, & church of St. Michael situated close to each other, are both sites of churches built by St. Patrick. The foundations of the former are quite visible in the little cemetery attached. In the case of the latter, it is commonly believed that the stones of the church were used to fence the cemetery.

Demplelusk - the burnt church - this place of worship was burnt by Cromwellian agency, hence its name. Some of the remains still stand.

Ballintemple - Town of the Church - In the cemetery, portion of the foundations can still be seen. The holy-water font is still preserved in part, and can be seen at the house of Mr. Laurence Wolohan, Ballintemple.

Ennessilly - On this part of the coast, St. Patrick is supposed to have first landed, and is believed to have built a church there. It also claims one of the oldest cemeteries in the county, ~~as before mentioned~~ the tombstones - one of which is inscribed with the date 1690.

Ballycooge. This church stood on the site of the house now occupied by Mr. Andrew Byrne of Ballycooge. Traces of it are easily discernible. It is recorded that the Grahams, then owners of Ballycooge House, gave shells to a Jesuit father, during the troublesome times, who remained there till his death in 1772. His remains are buried in the old Abbey burial ground at Arklow, only his name - R. J. Wood. S. J. being legible on his tombstone.

In two other places, as their place names show - namely, Ballinakill and Chapel townland - there are traces or evidence of ancient churches, and these are none in the vicinity of Castleward, but no definite evidence as to their nature or origin.

See "The Castle"
on loose sheet.

Topography.

The main Dublin / Arklow road, after leaving Rathdrum, traverses the high ground along the right bank of the ~~Avoca~~ Avonmore River, thus affording the traveller — frequent glimpses of the level, valley below. Near the magnificently situated Castle Howard, which graces the summit of a high, almost perpendicular cliff, the Avonmore joins with the Avonbeg, and the broad stream formed by the confluence ~~is~~ continues a winding course, ^{as the Avoca River,} towards the sea at Arklow. This union of the two rivers, and their exquisite surroundings, inspired Moore's ever-popular song, "The Meeting of the Waters":

Road, river and railway, wind closely together through the picturesque Vale of Avoca, ~~the high slopes of which are wooded~~ whose between high, wooded slopes. Beauty and dignity are added to the natural attractiveness of the valley, by the charming demesnes and gardens of Castle Howard, Shelton Abbey, Blenart Castle and Ballyanthur House. The bare ridge of Cronbane (816 ft.), capped by the curious "Moth Stone", overlooks the glens of the Avoca and Avonbeg, the view being extended to Glenmalur and Glendalough, and to the lofty heights of Lugnaquilla, Kippure and other clouded peaks.

Perhaps the most splendid views, however, ^{are obtainable} ~~at~~ from the grounds of Ballyanthur, near Woodenbridge. A terrace here, on the uppermost ridge of the Avoca's north bank, presents a prospect of the "Second Meeting" — that of the Avoca and Aughlim Rivers — and of Croghan Kinsella (1,993 ft.), famed for the discovery of gold which, many years ago, caused a sensational "Gold Rush". Other spots within the precincts of the demesne afford equally fine views — notably, the ^{junction} ~~convergence~~ of ^{the} four vales, Arklow, Aughlim, Avoca and Goldmines at Woodenbridge, viewed from the Octagon.

Mining operations resulting in unsightly quarries and shafts and heaped-up masses of clay and stone have somewhat spoiled the charm of the vale, and the railway line running down the centre also tends to detract from the charm of the scene.

The tiny hamlet of Avoca, or Newbridge, is located almost in the centre of the vale, being 6 miles from Rathdrum and 6 m. from Arklow.

(Here, please copy "Walls & Ditches etc" from pp. 28 & 29 of Wicklow / Wickford Guide)

Area No.

Topography

John A.

Cont'd

(Insert before final paragraph of Page 1.)

~~The coast line from Higer Head to Ferrybank, on the east side, ~~is~~
a six mile stretch of alternating sandy
and pebbly beaches.~~

A considerable tract of sandy beach extends along the six miles
of coast from Higer Head to Ferrybank. Secluded coves and
inlets afford sheltered bathing and there are many excellent
views to be had of the beach and wooded hinterland.

Avoca Parish

GEOLOGY - CONTINUED. (1)

Geological sheets of the Ordnance Survey of this area have not been revised for quite a long time and there is considerable doubt as to the accuracy of the existing plans and estimates of deposits. The Geological Survey of Ire is endeavoring to complete the much-needed information ~~however~~ in as short a time as possible and the observations of the Survey ~~may~~ are expected to ~~help considerably~~ assist greatly the efforts at scientific and profitable exploitation of all the Avoca deposits.

Ordovician slates and shales are the principal rocks of the district and to the south of the ore-bodies there are several intrusions of rock which are denoted on the old sheets as "felsite" or siliceo felspathic trap ^(and which have the appearance of a quartz-porphyr.). The Avoca river bisects the district and the slates and shales of the immediate zone have been ^{much} ~~greatly~~ folded and sheared. Of the mines to the west of the river, the three main ore-bodies worked have been the South ~~and~~ Pond ~~and~~ and North lodes; in the Digoney mine on the east only one main ore-body was worked. In the more extensive workings of the west side, the South and North lodes of the Ballymuntagh were found to contain large and continuous bodies of pyritic ore and the S. lode was worked to a depth of 600 ft. below sea level and for a horizontal distance of 2000 ft.

These mines were first worked for copper and very rich copper ores were extracted from the hanging-wall portion of the S. lode in Ballygahan and Ballymuntagh. The Digoney mine, on the east side, was worked for its copper pyrites and subsequently a large lense of pyritic ore was mined. At a depth of 650 ft. below sea level the sulphur content decreased in quality but the ore is reported to have improved ^{and rich copper} in copper value. In the south of the main ore-body, several small ^{and rich copper} lodes were ~~was found~~ ~~rich~~ ~~copper~~ worked.

AVOCA DISTRICT

~~The most important and best known source of~~
~~metalliferous minerals in the Avoca district~~

GEOLOGY. (2)

Copper, probably the most plentiful of the metalliferous minerals of Ireland, has been extensively mined in the past at Avoca ~~which~~ ^{is} one of the chief sources of this valuable metal in this country. Very little copper has been mined in the country for a considerable period, chiefly, it appears, because of the difficulty and expense involved in the re-opening of abandoned workings, and also because of the ~~more~~ ^{more} competitive marketing of foreign products. Whilst these conditions do not entirely apply in the case of the Avoca deposits, ~~the copper has ceased to be the~~ the extraction of other minerals has replaced that of copper in the order of importance.

~~By the~~ The present ~~own~~ conditions and difficulty in importing very essential fertilizers has again placed the Avoca ^{Government-owned} mines in the forefront of our mineral areas. The Minerals Exploration and Development Company has re-opened some of the mines there and ~~is~~ the pyrites deposits of the Avoca mineral belt are now the primary source of sulphur for use in the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers.

It is interesting to note that in the 30 years from 1840 to 1870 some 3½ million tons of Avoca pyritic ores were exported to England for the manufacture of sulphuric acid. On January 1st 1942 the new State Company commenced operations for the production of lump pyrites for sulphuric acid manufacture and from this source alone it is believed that a sufficiency of pyrite concentrates can be extracted to meet the country's requirements for Super-phosphate. The refiners however, will need to install mechanical-hearth furnaces and dust precipitation plant, when these appliances are available, for the treatment of the fine flotation concentrates.

Avoca Parish.

GEOLOGY — CONTINUED. (3)

At least Cranebane, east of Degroney, some parallel veins were worked for copper and quantities of good milling ore remain in this area at a height of more than 100 ft. above sea level. ~~The principal work on the Meggie In the Bush is now and Meggie are amongst the other principal workings on this side, the former beds being found to consist of soft friable pyrites mixed with the blue clay and to carry fair values in zinc as well as some lead and copper.~~

Insert Page 2 here

The Silver was mined in the gossens of east Cranebane — probably these were the earliest workings in the district — and, subsequently, very rich black oxide of copper was mined in the higher levels; later on the yellow copper ore was mined.

Bodies of solid pyritic ore, such as is mined in the west ~~have not~~ are absent or have not been met with on the east side but several lenses of sulphide ore, varying in mineral content and sometimes containing up to 15% zinc, have been encountered.

A large quantity of ochre was produced when the adit to the Meggie Shaft was being cleaned. The ochre had been deposited from the mine waters and, on being washed out and settled in pits, it was sold to a private firm who dried and ground it for commercial purposes. ^{There has also been some production of ochre from the upper levels of the mines where the fine, divided oxides are derived by the superficial weathering and oxidation.}

The Avoca mineral belt has been proved for a length of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles and for an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in width but investigation on the eastern and western extensions have yielded evidence of haematite and magnetite ores. Both extremities of the Avoca district have been found promising of iron ore deposits.

Of the sulphide ores in situ.

Avoca Parish

Geology

(11)

Two iron ore deposits, at Ballard and Ballymoreau, to the northeast and southwest, respectively, of the Ballyshinny ores have been known for some time, but, although hundreds of tons of ore were taken for export from Ballard during the past century, the deposits have not been fully exploited. The Geological Survey has ascertained, by geophysical investigations, the probable extent and shape of these deposits which seem to consist of mixed hematite and magnetite of reasonably good quality. The Minerals Exploration and Development Company has ~~already~~ re-opened the Ballard mine and which has already ~~yielded~~ ^{yielded} a goodly quantity of ore.

The Avoca ~~district~~ ^{belt} is the biggest mineralized zone in Ireland which can be considered as a unit and its complex ores of copper, lead, zinc, and pyrites for the extraction of sulphur, are an immensely valuable asset, ^{at least} in these days when outside sources of supply are cut off.

Numerous beds of greenstone are encountered near the Avoca River on its course from Newbridge but the other prevailing rocks are clay-slate and quartz.

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.

Old "Tom Moore's Tree, under which he is supposed to have composed many of his lyrics, is the most famous landmark in the valley. At the Fountain Hotel are the following curiosities

- ① Buck's Whaley's Blunderbuss.
- ② Pistol owned by Fr Murphy of Boolavogue.
- ③ Fiddle & tin whistle made by a passing tramp. Alec - "the last of the thatchers" plays the whistle excellently. deceased 1947.
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- ④ The first set of golf clubs to be played on Woodentridge golf course, by Paddy Doran, Professional.
- ⑤ A bush root sticks presented to the fountain bar, by Bonusly Macnamara in appreciation of a good "creamy pint."

In Castlemacadam Church there are silver communion vessels made of silver obtained from the mines further up the valley.

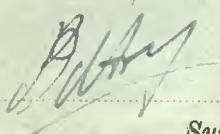
On the summit of a hill near Bonnessy, two miles from Avoca, is the "Motto Stone" sometimes called the Hottie Stone. A spherical boulder local rumour has it that marine mosses grew around this stone. Iron lugs have been used to enable it to be climbed.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

~~The~~ "Vizards" are seen on the night of October 31st. Bands of people, masked and wearing motley attire, wander from house to house, singing and dancing and otherwise entertaining — for which they expect a donation. On the night of 31st October, people dress up in old clothes, wear all kinds of masks, and go from house to house in bands with music. They ring, dance a half-sett, and recite — no special songs, + collect money. They call themselves the "Vizards".

Shrove On Shrove Tuesday night the old custom of making pancakes is still observed in almost all homes. duck money This custom of giving back some of the purchase price of beast or article to the buyer for luck still prevails.

(Signed) 

Surveyor.

DATE

Aug 1. 42

HISTORIC SITES

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

Photo. Bronstique, at corner of road near Hills of Ballinapark are two gateposts marked with a cross, leading into a field, where there was believed to have been an encounter between English & Irish Soldiers during the Wexford rebellion. The dead are supposed to have been buried here.

On his flight from the battle of the Boyne, James II spent a night in Shelton Abbey, the route he took being still known as the "King's Road". In 1821, George IV accompanied by Lord Heath visited Ballycogge House, and to commemorate the visit two lions were placed by Royal sanction on the piers of the gate leading to the house, now owned by Mr Andrew Byrne.

Penny-corn - Quick bridge "Ceann y cam Cric" interesting because the name is derived from Cornish Celtic. The milestones at Presbyterian Church Ferrybank, and Tully's Temperance No 32, + Lawlor's, Temple Michael No 32, mark part of the old Coach Road - also from Barnestry to Red Cross.

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.

At Sheepwalk in Redcross, on 18th April, 1768 was born the most Rev. Daniel Murray, Archbishop of Dublin 1823-1852. Dr Murray was famous for his connection with the "Veto" question, also for the introduction of the Sisters of Charity into Dublin. The present house at Sheepwalk is occupied by the estate agent to the Earl of Wicklow.

Johnstown House, now the property of Mr Roy Kearney was formerly a hospital for training students, + a meeting house during the time of the "Sack-em-ups" (Body snatchers).

Buckronev House Sallymount, was the residence of Capt. Lyrange, Cromwell's nephew, now occupied by Mr Louis Byrne.

Castlemacadam old church + burial ground - now a ruin. Protestants + Catholics buried there, used for C. I. Service until 1866. The present N.S. in duoca - official designation today on School Road, is Newbridge - was the old R. B. Church. Old graveyard is at the back. Monastery of Ennerully was the burial place of St Pargan.

Ryan, Ballymuckagh

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.

Mineral Spring at Ballymuckagh, locals claim it has curative powers for rheumatism, Siccacia + lumbago. believed locally to possess curative powers in cases of rheumatism, Sciatica and lumbago.

Shelton Abbey, Dorset

Quilting have been united ~~into the~~ ~~double~~ in the
pediment with pleasing effect. ~~The entrance hall~~ The carved
oak wainscoting of the entrance hall, the rich fur-treeing
and gilded pendants of the ceilings, the State apartments,
Great hall and gallery, are all ~~of great~~ ~~value~~
combine elegantly in style and ^{richness} ~~harshness~~ The cloisters
too are uncommonly beautiful in design and another
attractive feature is the ~~fine~~ ~~old~~ oak carving of the mantelpiece
in the main dining room. The whole effect successfully
represents the typical ecclesiastical ^{style} ~~architecture~~ of
the 14th Century, transformed into a stately residence.

The Shelton Abbey, remains the property
of the Earl of Wicklow. The public are not admitted.

Rhododendrons are most conspicuous
amongst the multi-bud flowers and flowering-
plants of the gardens and one of the main driveways
is flanked by this on both sides by this for its full
length of 4 miles by ~~various~~ various-coloured
specimens of this shrub.



Avoca Parish Co. Wicklow
Shelton Abbey

Avoca R. Mansions

Shelton Abbey has been ~~described~~ ^{well} described as one of the finest baronial mansions in Ireland. Its situation alone, it has few rivals, occupying as it does an eminently favourable site on the north bank of the Avoca River, with a background of richly wooded hills. The estate forms part of the Vale of Avoca, which begins here to ~~open~~ ^{open} towards the sea, and the park and pleasure gardens extend for some distance along the bank of the river. The demesne grounds ~~has been laid out~~ ^{are} planted with ^{Cherry} ~~apple~~ trees, and ~~ornamental~~ ^{ornamental} ~~plantations~~ ^{plantations} are laid out ~~so~~ ^{so} as to appear to best advantage from the windows of the mansion.

The history of Shelton dates to 1655 when Ralph Howard, a young English "Doctor in Physic" sold his property in England and came to live in Ireland with his mother. He purchased the Shelton and N. Wicklow estates from the Duke and Duchess of Ormonde in the same year and ~~had~~ ^{continued} his studies in ~~the~~ ^{the} Dublin where he took the M.D. degree at Trinity ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ 1667, becoming physics professor ~~at~~ ^{at} that college.

His mother died in 1684, presumably at Shelton, and was buried in the nearby parish church of Killbride. In 1688 when ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~attainder~~ ^{attainder} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~removed~~ ^{removed} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~William III~~ ^{William III} and his estates seized when he left for England on the outbreak of revolution in that country in 1688. A man named Hackett then obtained possession and lived here for a period. He it was who entertained King James when on his way to Waterford after the disaster at the Boyne ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~avenue~~ ^{avenue} in the demesne is still called St James's Road in memory of ~~his~~ ^{his} ~~visit~~ ^{visit}. The attainder was ~~removed~~ ^{removed} by William III and the family regained their possessions though they did not resume occupation until a few generations later.

~~The~~ Ralph Howard's heir, Hugh, was acknowledged as a man of considerable ability and many of his paintings and caricatures were exhibited in the Print Room of the British Museum. The youngest son, William, was a lawyer and scholar of some note and his purchase of Lord Chancellor's prebend's splendid library, the best in the country at the time, was the founder of the present magnificent collection. Robert, 2nd son, became Bishop of Killaloe later, of Elphin and his son, Ralph, Sheriff of Wicklow 1749 and of Carlow in 1754, M.P. 1761, was the first to resume at Shelton. In 1776 he was created Baron Clonmore of Clonmore Castle, Carlow and in 1785 he was made Viscount Wicklow; his widow became Countess Wicklow in her own right.

The ~~mansion~~ ^{mansion}, a low-built quadrilateral structure was remodelled about 1830 by Morrison, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~experts~~ ^{experts} who were famed for their magnificent work on other mansions. There are two main fronts, ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~main~~ ^{main} ~~front~~ ^{front} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~decorated~~ ^{decorated} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~decorative~~ ^{decorative} ~~reliefs~~ ^{reliefs} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~highly~~ ^{highly} ~~ornamented~~ ^{ornamented} ~~pilasters~~ ^{pilasters}, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~whole~~ ^{whole} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~a~~ ^a ~~beautiful~~ ^{beautiful} ~~example~~ ^{example} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Abbey~~ ^{Abbey} ~~Gothic~~ ^{Gothic} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~domestic~~ ^{domestic} ~~offices~~ ^{offices} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~see~~ ^{see} ~~over~~ ^{over}.

MANSIONS

Ballyarthur House is the residence of Major Bagley, a mansion in Tudor style, occupies a most ~~suited~~ advantageous site on the north bank of the Avoca River, opposite wooden bridge. The extensive estate is well planned and planted with luxuriant trees and shrubs, a considerable area being devoted to ornamental gardens. Several vantage points in the demesne afford very pretty views of the converging valleys, and since

Castle Howard. From the Howard family, this stately seat has passed to Mr. LeFroy who does not reside there permanently. The ~~mansion~~ ^{scattered} Castle crowns the summit of a steep cliff over the east bank of the Avoca and its towers commands some exceptionally fine views of the "Meeting of the Waters" and the Vale of Avoca. A feature of the ~~castle~~ ^{and the library} ~~is the ceiling of French chateau style ceilings~~. The French ceilings of the ~~mansion~~ ^{castle} are an attractive feature, of the same as the library of the Castle.

The public are admitted to the grounds on ^{application} ~~application~~ at the Gate Lodge, via Lion Arch Bridge.

Historic Houses, etc.

Dr. Murray, Archbishop of Dublin 1823-1852, was born at Sheepwalk, near Redcross, on April 18th, 1768. Educated at Dublin and Salamanca, he was ordained in 1790 and occupied the curacy at Arklow, in 1798 but was driven being forced to leave this (by the Crown forces) in 1798. In 1809 he was made Coadjutor to Archbishop Troy, and succeeded ~~to~~ the See in 1823. He strongly opposed the proposed "Veto" and, in 1846, refused a Privy Councillorship. Dr Murray was an able advocate of the national system of education, was held in high regard by successive popes, and earned the respect of the British Government. He died at Dublin in 1852. The present house at Sheepwalk is occupied by the Estate Agent to the Earl of Wicklow.

Buckrow House, near Mizen Head, ~~is~~ now occupied by Mr Louis Byrne, was at one time ^{the} residence of Captain Grange, Cromwell's nephew.

Johnston House (Arklow 2 1/2 m.) was formerly a training hospital for medical students and ~~during the period of body-snatching by the~~ "Sack-bunches" was a meeting-place of the "Sack-em-blyss," a party of body-snatchers who operated during this period. The house is now the property of Mr Roy Keenan.

John Ryan, born at Ballymurtogh in 1774, discovered a method of preserving wood in 1831 which ~~first~~ ^{firstly} ~~he~~ ^{he} famous established his reputation as an inventor. Faraday highly praised the innovation and it was patented in 1832. The inventor sold his rights to a company and the "Ryanizing" treatment was applied to the timber of the British Museum, Ramsgate Harbour, Temple Church, and London College of Surgeons and other structures. John Ryan died in New York in 1850.

Curiosities.

The Bell Rock — Halfway between Avoca and the "Meeting".
The summit of the rock, ^{as said to} produced a peculiar hollow
sound when heavily stamped upon. This enormous
rock covers ~~an area of several acres~~ a large area and
its name is derived from the bell which was rung from there to
summon the miners to their work.

The Devil's Horse. A large rock, in shape ~~resembling~~ suggesting the
figure of a horse. The rock is on the lands of Mr E. Johnson,
in the townland of Knocknamshill.

Tom Hood's Tree This ^{stark} ~~green~~ skeleton, now bereft of all foliage, was
a favourite haunt of the poets who spent ~~many~~ long hours beneath
its then spreading and luxuriant branches, ^{and} it is believed, he
composed ~~many~~ ^{many} of his verses. The tree is ~~one~~ of the most
famous landmarks in the valley, ~~at the~~ ^{at the} end, because of the
destructive activities of souvenir-hunters, it ~~is~~ ^{is}
enclosed by iron railings.

The ^{Mottie} Mottie Stone — is the "Mottie Stone", a huge spherical boulder,
situated atop the summit of a hill near the "Meeting" of the waters and,
apart from its curious appearance in such a position, is the subject
of much speculation as to its origin and former uses. It is
often described as a dividual altar and, in ancient local
tradition, as the hurling stone of Diarmuid Mac Cool.
~~The stone is about 10 ft. high, the same in width, and
approx. 14 ft. long. It rests upon a ridge of Lower Silurian
schist and, since it affords some really fine views, iron legs have
been inserted in the sides of the boulder to facilitate climbing.~~
The "Mottie Stone" measures about 10 ft high, the same in width
and about 14 in length and is described by geologists as a glacial

Granite boulder. An old elevation of 821 ft., the rock
rests ~~on~~ a ridge of Lower Silurian schist and, because of
the advantages of its position has been used by the Ordnance
Surveyors as a triangulation station. The iron legs inserted
in the rock ^{at that time} to facilitate climbing, now prove very helpful to
sighters who are assured of a really splendid view from the
summit.

Continue with items on p. 4 of Green
Book A.

Local Place Names.

The Black Dog: A large house on the Avoca-wooden bridge road, about 1 mile from Avoca. Locally reputed to be haunted by a large black dog. Friends of Hoods-Riverview Hotel Avoca claim to have seen this dog one night when walking from Arklow.

The Piper's bones: A gate & bend in the road between Parknashan Castle Macadam & Tulqueeny. Music of pipes supposed to be heard here. Gate leads to fields owned by the Griffin family.

The Bell Rock. ^{Craigie's} Halfway between Avoca village and the "Hitting". One reason given for name being that when one stamps heavily when on the summit of this huge rock, which is many acres in extent a hollow sound is heard. This name may have some connection with the Penal days.

The Spink A hill at the foot of the "Hottle Stone". In the townland of Digronny (Teac an Roinnraig)?

The Round O. A raised circular mound about 2'-3' high level & flat inside in the townland of Killeagh near Wheatleys. People claim to have seen lights here at night.

The Bustle ^{Antiquaries} Name given locally to the homestead of Mr. L. Greene in Bastle Macadam. In bygone days, a castle stood near the site of this house. Behind the house is a wall built of stones taken from the ruins of the old castle. Mrs. Greene has a cannonball taken from the ruins, & until it was mislaid recently, had a button inscribed "Avoca Hillia" or "Wicklow Hillia" with a certain date. ~~The button cannot be found now.~~

Nell's Path } Stile } A path or stile leading from near Bastle Macadam school down on to the wooden bridge road between Bastle Macadam townland (Griffins) and Greene's land. ^{Suggesting shape of a knee} Who Nell was nobody appears to know.

The Devil's } ^{Craigie's} Words } A large rock on the townland of Knock-na-mohill, on the lands of Mr. E. Johnson Broad at base & sharp at apex.

The Hill Picket Name given to the road leading from Bastle Macadam N.S. up to the townland of Tulqueeny Ballygahan etc.

The Frostlands Land lying at the foot of Ballyathas hills near Ballinor. Near Ballinor Road. Owned by M. Dunne. N.T. Avoca. So called because they get very little sunshine & the frost remains longer than on other fields less sheltered.

Kilba-boddy } lane. } A lane behind Wynne's in Tigroney, near the Spink.

The White Well Field & well, Parknashan, owned by Griffins. Spring well, outlet by stream past dwelling-house. Never known to have gone dry. All neighbours get water from this well in summer. Named from white stones around it.

Mass Paths

- ① From Ballymoyle (Dealy's) to Barnesley Chapel
- ② " Ballinvalley (Kelly's) to " "
- ③ connecting roads from Ennerreilly to Brittas Bay, now taken over as part of new coast Road
- ④ From Hill Picket to Avoca Village.
- ⑤ Kill-a-body lane, via Digroney tra to Avoca.
- ⑥ From Hill Picket Road (between Carroll's farm and McCabes plot) across brow of hill by Horans' to Avoca bridge.
- ⑦ From G. J. Nat. School via Sniffins fields over brook, & between two cottages & wood to main road north of Avoca Manor Gate.

Aug 1. 42

[Signature]

Irish words in use in Avoca, Co Wicklow

- brosna : I got an armful of "brosnas" for the fire.
meel : He sold the "meel" cows today.
Spás : That put a nice "spás" on it.
Riabac : It is a "ree-a-wuck" day.
Ángsac : She is a kind of a ----
Ángadán : He's a poor --- of a fellow.
bódac : A --- of a fellow.
Sóngacan : A big --- of a man.
Squawle : She is an untidy --- of a woman.
Culle : He gave me a good "tully" with the milk.
Staic : A fine --- of a man (woman).
Sgeac : In general use for thorn bush.
Spine : A hill in Digorney townland.
Spág : Take your --- out of my way.
Pus : She had a --- on her.
Craicínín : It's not worth a c-----.

Phrases

What is on you at all.

He did a mean lion on me.

She told on me.

He burnt the letter on me.
de.

"My Easter egg on you"
is said when a person
asks for anything - In this
case an Easter egg -
"My Christmas box on you."

Fack Step - a piece jutting out from a field.
This word is in common usage in Parknashaw
townland - an extra piece added to a field with
an otherwise regular boundary.
"The cow is in the Fack step".

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Arklow

TOWN OR VILLAGE Avoca PARISH Avoca 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..... Nearest point to town (distance).....

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout.....

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout.....

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon.....

Sea trout.....

Brown trout.....

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Handwritten note: Fishing not possible in this parish

There is some fair Brown Trout fishing on the Avonbeg, Avonbeg and Avoca Rivers. ~~Drainage from the various copper mines has detrimented to fish.~~ Contamination by poisonous drainage from the copper mines does considerable harm to fishing in the Avoca and very few Salmon or Sea trout ~~can~~ reach the upper stretch of the river. The Avonbeg River holds numerous small brown trout.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None

Free except on some stretches, Angling on which is permitted on application to the Agent, Estate Office, Avoca.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Avoca, Woodbridge, Arklow.

Local Angling Club..... Membership Fee.....

Secretary (and Address).....

SEA ANGLING

Nil.

Brief notes on fishing grounds:

Fair sea fishing for bass north of
Arklow. Boats and boatmen
available in the town.

~~fish~~

Kinds of fish to be caught:

~~fish~~

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

~~fish~~

Bait available locally? Fishing tackle?

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

GOLFING

Name of Club Woodenbridge No. of holes nine

Situation and brief description of course:

At southern end of vale, delightful inland course,
about two miles from ^{Cwoca} village, and opposite Woodenbridge
Railway station

Name of Professional ~~fish~~ None

Is there a clubhouse on course? Yes Licensed? no

Green fees (Visitors): Per day ? Per week

RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year.....

Under which rules? *nil*.....

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds.....

Harriers *Wicklow Harriers adjacent*.....

Beagles.....

COURSING

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

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company *nil*.....

Races on (nights).....

SHOOTING

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

*Rough shooting for pleasure
Broad Rough shooting for pheasant, partridge, woodcock and snipe are plentiful
but, in the main, shooting rights are reserved by landowners.*

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

*Rough shooting. For terms - apply
Major Barry - Woodenbridge Hotel and
(Avoca Forest) Irish Land Commission 24 Upper Merion St, Dublin*

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

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club *nil*..... Competitions held? *nil*.....

ROWING AND SAILING

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

nil.....
.....
.....

GAMES AND RECREATIONS.

Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following:
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

- Gaelic Football *None*
- Hurling *—*
- Handball *—* Handball alley? *—*
- Soccer *—*
- Rugby *—*
- Cricket *—*
- Hockey *—*
- Bowls *—*
- Bowling (on public roads) *—*
- Lawn Tennis *Avoca Tennis Club.* Kinds of courts *2 Grass courts.*
- Croquet *on Vale Road. 5 mins walk from Railway Station. 5/- per season. 2/6 per week. Aspley Fountain Hotel. Free to visitors.*
- Billiards *—*
- Badminton *—*
- Table Tennis *—*
- Bridge Club *—*
- Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing) *nil*

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.

nil Promoters *—*
—
—
—
—
—

DATE *Aug. 1. 42* (Signed) *[Signature]* Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF ARKLOW.

TOWN OR VILLAGE AVOCA. PARISH AVOCA. COUNTY WICKLOW.
~~OR NEWARK~~

Location and brief description. Population

Stands ^{near} the centre of the Vale of Avoca, on the main Dublin-Wexford Road, 6 miles from Arklow, 6 ^{miles} from Rathdrum, and 44 from Dublin.

The village is ~~very small and compact~~ ^{near} a scattered collection of ~~small~~ hotels and dwellings and is ^{very} pretty, wooded

~~scenery~~ The village, though small and of little interest in itself, is well situated as a centre for exploration of the ~~very~~ beautiful vale and the romantic wooded country which surrounds it.

Is there a Town Hall? — Location —

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

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

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Board of Health Water Supply from Tilmagie good. Sewerage nil. Recently Ladies & Gents. Toilets have been erected outside G. S. & R. Station

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Avoca. Distance 100 yds. Bus? Dublin/Arklow, Wickford & Southern
Public lighting by—Electricity? nil. Gas? nil.

DANCING

Dance hall Moon's "Vale View" Proprietor Mrs Brown. Vale View Hotel
Whitebridge Hall. Mr Lucas. Whitebridge Hotel

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas nil. Pictures shown (nights)

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

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries *Nil*

Private Lending Libraries *Nil*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church	<i>R.C. Avoca.</i>	Services (Sundays)	<i>8.30 am. 11.00 am.</i>
	<i>Jemplerainy</i>		<i>9.00 am. Last Sunday of each month - 10.30 am.</i>
	<i>Barniskey</i>		<i>11.00. Last Sunday - 9.00.</i>
	<i>(Billicoooge)</i>		
	<i>C.I. - Castle macadam</i>		<i>11.30.</i>
	<i>Connery.</i>		<i>3.00 p.m.</i>
	<i>Methodist - Avoca</i>		<i>3.30 p.m.</i>
	<i>" Ferrybank.</i>		
	<i>Presbyterian "</i>		<i>11.30 am.</i>

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office *In village*

Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) *M.O. Telegraph. Telephone. Telephone, 9 am - 7 p.m. Sundays & Bank Holidays 9 am - 10.30 am.*

BANKING

Banks *Bank of Ireland, Munster & Leinster Bank, Wednesday. On Fair Days Banks change from Wed. to Fair Day which is second last Monday of each month.*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers *nil*

Photographic Stores *Post Office.*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? *Local Salmon Pool.* Location *Just outside village*

Public Baths? *nil.* Location

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs. ~~Nil~~ Abercorn Masonic Hall, Ferrybank.

Cultural Societies Nil.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries Part of Mill House occupied by Miss Wams, has been leased from the Avoca Co. op. Flax Soc. to develop the ochre in the district by Messrs Mc Nicholl. The Mines at Cronebane are being developed by the Govt. for fertilizers.

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

Local handwoven woollen industry, & toymaking, operated by the "Avoca Weavers", organised by the Misses Wynne, Digrooney House.

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

Nil

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

Nil

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

R. G. N. S.	Avoca	b. J.	Bartlemacadam
" "	"	"	Conner's Cannery
" "	Barnesky	"	Redcross
" "	Redcross		
" "	Kilmacoo		

HOSPITALS

Nil

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *Second last Monday of each month* *cattle, Sheep + Pigs.*

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

Lowny's, Halls, Lucas, Whitebridge Hotel
Moons, Valeview Hotel.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis *Lowny's*
Halls.
Martin Byrne's.

Motors (Touring) *As above.*

Boats (State type) *nil.*

Bicycles *Halls, + Lowny's.*

Caravans *nil.*

Horses *Jarveys - Dick Kenny, Percy Dunsall.*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *Mill House* Landowner *Miss Adam*

Local Improvements Committee *nil*

Secretary *Nil*

DATE *Aug 1.42* (Signed) *[Signature]* Surveyor

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY
ACCOMMODATION AND CATERING.

BARONY OF Arklow

TOWN OR VILLAGE Avoca PARISH Avoca COUNTY Wicklow

Hotels	No. of Bedrooms	No. of Bathrooms	Licensed ?
<u>Avoca Hotel.</u>	<u>10</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes.</u>
<u>Moore's Vale View</u>	<u>10</u> ⁽¹⁰⁾	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes.</u>
<u>Whitebridge</u>	<u>7</u> ⁽⁷⁾	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes.</u>
<u>Woodenbridge Hotel</u>	<u>14</u> ⁽¹⁴⁾	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes.</u>
<u>Valley Hotel W'bridge.</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Yes.</u>

Guest or Boarding Houses

<u>Miss Adam. Mill Cottage</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Mrs Aaron ^{Burns} Byrne Knockree</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>— Farmhouse</u>
<u>Mrs Carter Smachree Hse.</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Mrs. Devereux "The Meetings"</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>— Farmhouse</u>
<u>Mrs Jane Evans. Bastlemacara</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>— Tea rooms</u>
<u>Mrs. ^{AJ} Sheane Bellrock.</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>— m</u>
<u>Mrs Hark Monaglong ^{Woodbridge}</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>— Bus stop, etc 1/2 m</u>
<u>Mrs. George Byrne Sulphurbrook.</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Mrs Wm. Sheane, Rockmount</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<u>Mrs Plant ^{Woodbridge} Aughton Rd.</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

All farmhouses in this area take visitors but will not give information

Restaurants and Cafés McCarthy's Restaurant, Avoca
O'Reilly's Sea Rooms, Avoca,

DATE Aug 1. 42

(Signed)

Surveyor.

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

7 Copy typed filed

Compare with 2 T.B. List.