

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY.

Natural Features, Antiquities,
Historic Associations, etc.

Barony of Talbotstown Lower

Town or Village Dunlavin Parish Dunlavin County Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Dunlavin is situated in centre of West Wicklow, the principal town of which is Dunlavin, some 30 miles South of Dublin, 12 miles S.E. of Naas and ten miles North of Baltinglass. This parish must rank as one of the most beautiful in all Wicklow embracing as it does the lovely Glen of Imaal, Lugnaquilla, (3035ft) monarch of the Wicklow mountains, the youthful river Slaney, Church mountain whose summit is crowned with the "church" of Palladuis christian predecessor of St. Patrick and the hills of ^uTornant overlooking the plains of Kildare.

GEOLOGY

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

Here like most of the other parishes of south and west Wicklow the predominant feature are the bare tree less, smooth looking mountains whose gaunt appearance due to their granite composition, bestows on them a majestic appearance and lends them a singular beauty. The Glen of Imaal is formed by a complete circle of mountains and hills. This formation is not usually met with ^{and} the saucerlike valley ^{and} is enhanced by its lofty guardians.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATESOF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

The only house of this type in the parish is Tynte Park, situated about 2 miles above Dunlavin on the ^uTornant hills. The house is a fine big square structure very like the Georgian houses of the late eighteenth century. There is nothing at all ornate about it and the only relieving feature is a granite pillared Portico. Unfortunately, the owner Miss Tynte was not in residence during the survey with the result that little information was available. There is neither a library ^{nor} art Gallery and the reason of it being interesting at all is that it has housed the Tynte family for generations. This family is generally recognised to have been the founders of Dunlavin and ^{the} market house of unusual Doric architecture. Members of this family have been titled but as far as can be gathered there is no titled member living. Quite a large estate is attached to the house.

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli, or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Raths or Raheens.

The principal rath in this parish is located at Donard Demesne east. Passing through Donard and following the road which leads to Glen of Imaal to where it branches to the left, the branch road should be followed up over the hills for about 1½ miles. Here a very well kept farm house is owned by a Mr. Monks on whose land is the rath. It is located about two fields away at the back of the house and it is an unusually fine specimen. It consists of three concentric rings and two dykes or ditches. The inner plateau, which is surrounded by the inner dyke, has a diameter around 45 or 50 feet. The dyke is in the region of 8 feet in depth and something the same in width. Then comes the second ring having an equal height to that of the centre plateau. This earthwork is several feet wide and outside is the second dyke similar to the inner one except that it is a little wider. The bank outside the dyke is a shade higher but slopes down on the outside to the level of the surrounding field. As a whole the entire earthwork is in a fair state of preservation, some spots are inclined to crumble but so far no serious damage has been done. It is not in the care of the Board of Works but the owner has received notification that he must not allow it to be damaged in any way. To any person interested it is well worth seeing and there is free access.

Mulladaragh Rath

This rath is located in the townland of Knockananagh to the right of the road leading from Donard to Glen Imaal and about a mile and a half from Donard. It is quite a good length up the hillside and any intending visitor should get directions locally. The rath is just a circular earthwork, the sides being raised four or five feet high and a shallow ditch of not more than a couple of feet outside it. The diameter is around 60 feet and it is in a fair state of preservation. On the opposite side of the road there is also another little rath but they are so ordinary and common that they are of little interest. The larger Mulladaragh rath is on the land of a Mrs. Grace who does not object to anyone visiting it.

DUNLAVIN PARISH

OUTLINE OF INTERESTING FEATURES

"Where is Dunlavin?" This question is often asked and would receive in a great number of cases an evasive if not a negative reply. Surely there must be some means of making this wonderful area better known. Most people know West Wicklow to be a beautiful country but somehow give the impression that they are unfamiliar with it and do not regard it, as probably, the more beautiful part of the "Garden of Ireland." Yet what does it offer? The parish alone offers a variety of features which must be hard to equal anywhere.

Glorious scenery, prechristian monuments, the birthplace of Christianity in Ireland, conflicts with the Norsemen, traditions of Michael Dwyer and Irelands struggle for freedom in '98, tragedy in the form of massacre and above everything an air of freedom and tranquility which is all pervading.

The Parish is subdivided into Donard the eastern half and Dunlavin the western half embraces the town of that name. Here near Dunlavin at Tober and ^{UR} ~~On~~ant are outstanding relics of the Druids, others are found in great numbers throughout the entire parish proving that a great prechristian settlement flourished here.

History tells us that the Kings of Leinster had their Royal residence at Duvlavin up to the Christian era, and what more suitable place could they have chosen overlooking as it does the plains of Kildare, Carlow and South Dublin. "Glenmama" scene of a great slaughter of the Danes, and source of so much controversy, is according to the "Four Masters" the place of that name located a few miles east of the town.

Donard, quaint homely little village, nestling under Church Mountain, even excels Dunlavin in wealth of feature and tradition. Relics of pagan times abound and here it was that St. Palladuis first established the Christian faith prior to the advent of St. Patrick. Palladuis on his return to Rome left St. Sylvester in charge, and an unusual headstone, marked with a bishops Cross, in the old graveyard is reputed to be the place where he is interred. St. Patrick it is said finding the church at Donard went on his way and founded another at Donaghmore.

On to the lovely "Glen of Imaal" named after Mal brother of Cahirmor, king of Ireland, gem of Wicklow scenery, birth place of the Slaney and scene of Michael Dwyers exploits. This delightful valley apart from its associations will entrance the visitor and should one travel to Dernamuck the remains of Hoxeys cottage, from which Dwyer escaped and where the brave Sam McAllister gave his life for his friend are still to be seen. Here antiquarian and ~~SPORTSMAN~~, nature lover, and historian are amply catered for and even the most indifferent cannot fail to be moved by the wealth of natural beauty everywhere.

Truly can it be said of this area "To see it is to know it and to know it is to love it." It is to be hoped that people abroad and more particularly those at home may become more conversant with West Wicklow and give it the place in public favour it so justly deserves.

DUNLAVIN PARISH

General Features

The parish of Dunlavin is bounded on the north by the Parish of Ballymore Eustace, to the west it touches Co. Kildare, the southern end adjoins Baltinglass while on the eastern flank the Wicklow mountains form the bastion. Topographically it is divided into halves by a valley running north and south, the terrain to the west embraces Dunlavin and neighbouring townlands and that to the east, Donard and Glen of Imaal. The combined areas form a long rectangle running north west to south east.

* ALL OF WHICH WOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THE REGION OF 4
600 FT. TO THE EAST OF THE DIVIDING VALLEY, RISE THE
DONARD HILLS

The town of Dunlavin is at the western extremity, Donard is almost in the centre and the Glen of Imaal terminates the eastern district. The entire parish is on high ground, but the western portion is considerably the lower. This is composed of the Törnán, Dunlavin and neighbouring hills, varying in height from six to eight hundred feet. Both these ranges of hills form the western foothills of the Wicklow mountains. Still further east rise the Wicklow range proper under the dominance of towering Lugnaquilla (3035') and form a complete circle to guard as it were the valley below. Church mountain (1789') to the north west of this circle, is the most conspicuous mountain in the parish. Its long smooth, brown and heather coloured sides surmounted by the "Church" are visible from practically every part of the area. The "Slaney" conceived on the slopes of Lugnaquilla winds its tortuous way through the "Glen" to emerge at Castleruddery and flow southwards. An interesting feature is the valley which divides the parish, the appearance of which is, that it was at one time a river bed. It commences in the form of a "Ravine" and broadens into a smooth valley as it goes south and joins up with the valley of the Slaney.

OUTSTANDING SCENERY

"There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet" how fitting would these words of Moores be to describe the lovely "Glen of Imaal." Tucked away in the heart of Wicklows highest mountains, cradled by lordly Lugnaquilla, guarded jealously by neighbouring peaks and watered by the infant "Slaney."

To stand on the hills which form the western boundary of this entrancing vale, to see the peaks on either side rising to meet their majestic leader directly opposite, to observe the fertile land below, well wooded to the north, chequered with fields to the south, all green and gold in the sunlight. The mountains varying their colours each minute, the soft green slopes at ones feet is a sight long to be remembered.

The whole valley comprises one vast Amphitheatre, the walls of which are formed by the following peaks, leading from south via the east, Brussellstown hill (1320), Keadeen (2146), Slievereagh (1556), Slievemaan (2501), Lugnaquilla (3039), Leoh (1894), Stranahely (2100), Sugarloaf (1817) and Newpark mountain (2097) with the Donard hills forming the western gateway.

This valley is located at the south eastern end of Dunlavin parish about 2 miles south east of Donard, thirty miles south of Dublin and approximately 7 miles east of Dunlavin.

Second only to "Imaal" in beauty is a remarkably lovely view to be seen FROM Törnán just above the entrance to Tynne Park. Here the road which wanders over Törnán hill reaches its maximum altitude of several hundred feet. From this point the ground slopes gently eastwards until it merges with the valley below. Church mountain, designed almost to suit its name, forms the principal background. A little to the left is seen the sharp defile of beautiful Hollywood Glen while to the right the Donard hills appear to be but stepping stones to the great peaks beyond. The long almost treeless slopes of Church mountain offer contrasting tones in the sunlight, the pinks, brown and green tints relieving the persistent grey. Below is well wooded Donard whose dark foliage, accentuating the soft green of the valley forms a perfect foot note for the picture.

From this same view point, looking to the west, the scene is in sharp contrast. As far as the eye can see lie the flat green plains of Kildare, South Dublin, Meath, Carlow and Westmeath. Myriads of fields variegated in colour, gold and brown, fawn and emerald stretching everywhere t'would seem, endlessly, softened only by the darker foliage of the intervening trees. Away on the horizon to the west can be seen, often but dim outlines, the hills which terminate the west plain.

A view of remarkable beauty can be obtained, should one so desire, by ascending Church mountain. Crowned by its "church", (attributed to St. Palladius), which can be seen from afar, it provides not too arduous climb. Though glorious VISTAS can be seen all round, it is to the north ones eyes are attracted, where lying far below, cradled beneath the smooth brown hills, are the huge twin lakes of Paulaphuca. These lakes, fruits of mans hardwork, rival nature at her best. Let ones gaze wander to the east, and here the famous valley of Glenbride stretches between the harsh forbidding peaks which form it. Some of these mountains have their smooth brown sides, cut and slashed as it were, by the black lines of the turf bogs. Yet, as the valley goes ere it turns sharply through the inner range on its way to Glendalough. Here, nature aided by man, has formed a scenic paradise that has to be seen to be believed.

Another pleasant view is to be had when standing on the hills at Broomfields about half way between Donard and Phillipstown by facing west. Lying directly below is the valley, running north to south, which bisects the parish. Here it reaches its greatest width and looks soft and green. A little to the right at Phillipstown Crossroads can be seen a sharp cleft in the hills reminiscent of an ancient river bed, and darker than its surroundings being heavily splashed with gorse. At the opposite side of the valley the hills roll gently to where they terminate at Dunlavin. To the south the valley quickly narrows and runs through a sharp defile between the hills ere it widens out beyond. Through the entire length of the valley a tiny river wanders slowly. It is known as "The Drain" probably due to the fact that it is perfectly straight and its sides are sharply cut. The absence of dwellings in this part of the vale give it a rather wild appearance but nevertheless it appears wrapped in peace and tranquility.

A larger view can be got at Kelshamore on the Donard Davidstown road embracing a second valley with Donard and Church mountain to the north east. The places already described are the scenic highlights of the parish, but from practically every part of it, an excellent view can be seen, though they are principally variations of the aForementioned. It is surprising the remarkable change in the scenery by altering the viewpoint even the smallest amount.

ROADS

Throughout the entire parish the roads, though hilly and heavy for cycling, have excellent surfaces. Even the lesser roads and those in the most backward places are a vast improvement to those found in the other portions of South and West Wicklow.

It is worth mentioning here that there are three other tiny villages, consisting of merely a few houses, in the parish. They are Knockanarrigan, in glen Imaal, Davidstown at the entrance to it and Donoughmore a little further west. All are on the road which lead from the main Dublin - Baltinglass road to the "Glen". Each one of them is clustered around a church and school, and for all their smallness they have a certain attractiveness, which may be accredited to the fact that they are clean and tidy.

HISTORIC SITES

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

HOXEYS HOUSE, DERNAMUCK

This little cottage or what remains of it perched on the mountain side at Dernamuck on southern side of Glen Imaal is one of the outstanding historic spots in Co. Wicklow. It was from this house that Michael Dwyer the heroic insurgent leader made his escape, aided by his friend and comrade Sam McAllister who offered his life to save his leader. During the winter of '98 Dwyer on a night on which snow had fallen sought refuge from Mr. Hoxey the owner. Unknown to him he had been seen by an informer, who set out to notify the military. In due course they arrived and surrounded the house and called on Dwyer and his companion to surrender. Dwyer replied that he had forced an entrance into the house and that before he would parley they should be allowed to pass out to safety. This being granted Dwyer then said he and his friends would never surrender alive. Accordingly the soldiers opened fire which the rebels returned. In the course of the fighting McAllister was wounded but fought on though his arm was shattered. Eventually the soldiers set fire to the house and when it was no longer tenable McAllister suggested to Dwyer that he (McAllister) should open the door and when the soldiers had discharged their rifles Dwyer should dash out and make good his escape. Dwyer demurred but after much entreaty by McAllister he eventually agreed. As his brave comrade fell Dwyer leaped across his body and fled. Even then fate saved his life for as the next volley was fired he slipped on the snow and the bullets sped harmlessly o'er him. Barefooted and clad only in night attire he sped across the glen hotly pursued by a big Highlander who was very anxious to secure his capture; but, having crossed the Slaneys icy water he eventually eluded him and reached safety though in an extremely exhausted condition. All that remains of the cottage is part of one gable and small pieces of the side wall surrounded by a rubble of the stones which once formed its walls. It is a great disgrace that what should constitute a national monument should be allowed to lie in such a derelict state. There is no difficulty in finding the place as once in the "Glen" any man, woman or child will give the necessary directions. It is on the land of a Mr. Hoxey, Dernamuck, and there is free access to the site.

Another historic site is the "Fair Green", at Dunlavin. The massacre of thirty six unarmed men on the spot will make it live in history. Members of the Wicklow militia they were also "United Irishmen," and one morning when parading on the green their leader a Capt. Saunders was told that some of his men belonged to this, then illegal organisation. He questioned them to that effect and thirty six stood forward, whereupon he had them shot on the spot, and it is a pity that no memorial marks the site.

ANTIQUITIES

Probably the most interesting antiquity in the parish is St. Palladuis' Church which is located on the summit of Church mountain. It is about six miles east of Dunlavin and three miles north east of Donard. That it was a house or church of some sort is quite evident as there still remains the earth covered foundations. The form it takes at the moment is a circle of about 150ft in diameter of small and medium sized stones, light grey in colour and all having a rather brittle surface. These stones apparently constituted the walls of the building. At various points in the circle the stones have been piled high in cairn like heaps, but this is probably due to the casual visitor who is usually informed, that by adding a stone a wish will be granted. Judging from the foundation the building was apparently about 50ft long and 30ft wide and was divided in halves forming two rooms. The structure ran from east to west. In under the stones of the circle on the western side is a well. This has been properly constructed as the sides are stone lined. It is known as St. Palladuis' well and is considered a holy well. Around it can be seen many tokens such as medals, beads, ribbons, etc. left there. There is a possibility that this may never have been a church but something of the type of a ring fort similar to that on Baltinglass hill.

There are several schools of antiquarians who are controversial regarding the above antiquity. One says it was St. Palladuis' church, another states that his church was founded somewhere near the present Catholic Church at Donard while yet another says it was further south. Apparently they are in accord that he did found a church thereabouts and that it was St. Sylvester whom he left in charge on his return to Rome. Having spent some time there he set out to come again to Eire but died on his way and is buried in Scotland where he is still venerated. His coming to this country is believed to have been about ^{430 or 431} a year or so before St. Patrick, who it is said was surprised to find him established there and went on to Donaghmore to found a church of his own.

The antiquities in this parish are so numerous and of such varied interest that it is difficult to assign to each its degree of importance, so that classification into types will probably be a better solution.

Druidical Relics

That this area flourished in the time of the Druids is evident from the number of relics still extant. Chief among these at the moment is the Druids circle or Pipers stones at Castleruddery which is six miles east of Dunlavin and 3½ to 4 miles south of Donard. The circle is located just off the road which, leaving the main Dublin-Baltinglass road at Whitestown cross, runs through Castleruddery, and Donoghmore on to Glen Imaal. Quarter of a mile west of Castleruddery cross on land owned by a Mrs. Doody and rented by a Mr. Wynne and slightly visible on the right hand side of the road, when facing east, is the circle. It is composed of between 40 and 50 large stones in a ring. Some are standing upright ~~WHILE~~ others are horizontal. Several slabs are lying near the centre of the ring. The stones for the most part are granite but a number are of pure white quartz and some of apparently limestone.

* IT CONSISTS OF ABOUT 40 SMALL STONES IN RING.

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Several of the upright stones would reach a height of 5 feet and are 3 or 4 feet thick. Those lying down are in a lot of cases much larger and must weigh several tons. Just inside the ring at the northeast corner is what appears to be a "Bullaun" stone. This is an oblong stone 3½ feet long and 2 feet wide and lengthwise along the surface have been cut 5 or 6 long NARROW holes. ^(SEE DIAGRAM 1.) Just outside the ring is another stone of the same category but of peculiar design. It is an oval which has been cut in two. The remaining half is four feet long and four feet wide ^(SEE DIAGRAM 2.) narrowing to a point. At the point of breakage the edge is serrated in a semicircle as if there were a number of holes in the stone prior to the breakage. About one foot back from this edge, across the width of the stone are four small circular cavities an inch or so in diameter. In its entirety the ring is quite attractive looking apart from its interest. There is free access and even to people uninterested in antiquities it is worth a visit.

The remains of a second circle, consisting now of only a few scattered stones is to be seen at Tornant near the summit of an old moat. Some years ago this circle was much more complete and a remarkable stone, since removed, was to be seen on the summit. The present stones are quite small being not more than a couple of feet either way. The arrangement of the stones is barely circular and unevenly spaced. This ring is located on the land of a Mr. Norton at Tornant about 2-1/3 miles east of the town of Dunlavin. Free access.

A third circle is found in this parish in the townland of Forresteen. On the land of a Mr. Cunningham it is about 2 miles east of Dunlavin. The entrance gate to the house is on the Forresteen road and it is beyond the second gate in front of the house that the ring is found.* The diameter would be approx. 30 feet and the position of the stones fairly symmetrical. The stones are for the most part rounded and few of them would be over 18 inches high. There is nothing outstanding about this ring or the stones themselves. The proprietors give permission to view it to people so desirous.

Motes and Tumuli

A number of these antiquities are located throughout the parish and if not the most important at least the most spectacular is the tumulus at Tober, about a mile and a quarter north east of Dunlavin. This earthen mound owing to its shape is most arresting. The lower portion commencing at the ground is about a couple of hundred feet in length and about 35 feet high, and runs east to west. At the eastern extremity rises a circular mote of 20 or 25 ft which tapers from base to summit. Viewing the whole from the south it looks like a large mote and Bailey with well ridged sides. The diameter of the summit of the Mote would be in the region of 50 feet and where it joins the lower structure about 70 feet. Viewed from the top the northern side can be seen to be much less steep than the southern owing to the fact that the ground is considerable higher here. Trees growing around its higher levels and summit add to its attractiveness. Unfortunately, apart from the fact that it is believed to be a pre-Christian burial mound, nothing further is known about it. At the back of it is the remains of a once fine mansion owned by the Tynte Family. In front of the mound is what remains of a small artificial canal and strangely enough these items enhance the general appearance. On the property of a Mr. Ashmore there is free access.

* ITS DIAMETER AT THE TOP WOULD BE AROUND 40 FT. 9
PART OF THE WESTERN . . .

Tornant is the scene of another spectacular Mote. This structure sits high on the summit of the southern part of the hill of Tornant, which takes the form of a ridge running north to south, from Forresteen to Tornant. This circular mound surrounded by a well formed fosse or dyke rises to a height of about 25ft and situated as it is on the height it looks to be much higher* slope has been unfortunately cut away. This it is believed was part of the Royal residence of the Kings of Leinster until a short time after the advent of Christianity. Undoubtedly it was an excellent choice on their part to select this spot for their home from where they commanded a full view of, it is said, seven counties. It is on the land of a Mr. Fisher and anyone wishing to visit it may do so free of charge.

A few hundred yards to the east is encountered another mote like structure. The ground here is uneven and it is difficult to determine exactly the height of the mote. In this case the fosse or dyke is absent though about 20 yards east is a smaller mote like structure, around which are the remains of the Druids circle previously described and still a further 20 yds is an again smaller mote. This latter one though only a few feet high and not very wide is probable the best shaped one of the three. These motes it is believed were the burial places of the Princes and people who lived here. This chain of mounds with their tradition and remarkable sites are attractive and interesting and the visitor to this area should certainly inspect them. These are on Mr. Nortons property who lives just beside them and permission has been granted by him for anyone to view them. Tornant by the way is about one mile east and in full view of the town of Dunlavin.

A third mote nearby and one which is very well known is that at Lemonstown about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north east of Dunlavin. This mound with its encircling trees can be seen from as far away as Paulaphuca, and constitutes an effective landmark. The mound is earthen and well shaped rising about 20 or 25 feet as it tapers towards the top, the diameter of which is around 40ft. At the base the earthen dyke or ditch is still visible. In fact the whole is quite well preserved. No tradition remains regarding it. On property owned by Mr. R. Lawler Dunlavin, again there is free access.

Travelling east to Donard, there can be seen at the southern extremity of the village, high above it and as it were guarding it, another well formed mote. This well known antiquity is called the "Ball Mote" for which reason I was unable to find out. This structure is slightly different. The ground rises at this side of the village and it is perched on top so that it appears tremendously high where in fact it would hardly exceed 20 feet. In this instance the summit has been hollowed out to a depth of a few feet leaving an earthen parapet all round. From the top an excellent view of the surrounding country can be had. There is no dyke surrounding this erection, the diameter of which would be 35 to 40 feet. Owned by a Mr. Allen who lives in the adjoining cottage there is again free access.

Another mote is located at Ballyhubbock bridge just below Castleruddery crossroads, and is plainly visible from the road leading from Whitestown cross to Glen Imaal. It is in a fair state of preservation and has quite a good external appearance. The structure which is completely earthen slopes up to a height of around 30 or 35 feet.

The diameter on the top would be something about the same. That a deep ditch or fosse surrounded it is evident but it has been cut or levelled in a lot of places so that only the suggestion remains. This mote is built just a few yards in from the banks of the river Slaney which must have afforded a deal of additional fortification. Like the nearby Druids Circle it is on the property of Mrs. Doody and there is free access.

Lastly, is found, tucked away in the north west corner of Glen Imaal, at Drumree, another earthen mote which is quite remarkable, not so much for its construction as for its position. Here the hills forming the western boundary of the jut into the valley in the shape of a small promontory. Perching on the edge of this is seen the mote. The actual artificial structure is not more than about 16 feet high but the eastern edge is flush with the cliff leaving an almost sheer drop of about 80 to 90 feet. Around the other sides a deep trench about 10ft wide surrounds it. The summit has been hollowed out to the depth of a few feet leaving an earthen wall about 2 feet wide to from the circumference. The diameter here is almost 40 feet. There is an excellent view of the "Glen" from this point and the owner Mr. Grace who lives in nearest house, grants permission to anyone to visit it.

Dolmen at Donard

There is only this one example of this type of antiquity in this parish and this is located on a Mr. O'Reillys land about 1/2 mile west of Donard village. It is quite visible on the left hand side from the main road from Phillips Cross to Donard.

The dolmen consists of three large upright stones of approximately the same height in the region of 6 feet. Their breadth varies from around four to six feet and their width is up to a couple of feet. The fourth stone which was the cap stone has been pushed from its horizontal position on top and now rests against the others. This is the largest stone and measures about $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft in height, 4, or 5, ft wide and several feet thick. This must have been a very excellent specimen of Dolmen and it is quite a shame that some men pushed the cap from its position. There is permission for anyone who wishes to visit it free of charge.

Ogham Stones

Two specimens of these relics, of one of the earliest forms of writing left to us, are found in the parish. The first is at Donard in the grounds of the Demesne, and the second at Knickeen at the eastern side of Glen Imaal. The first is located in the Demesne field directly opposite the Civic Guard barracks at Donard, about 200 yards in from the road. It is standing in the centre of trees and shrubs and is not easily seen. However, if the visitor enters the shrubbery he cannot fail to locate it. The stone itself is tall and square, approx. 5 ft in height and about a foot and a half either way. The scores or markings which are the writing, are found on the left hand corner and are clearly visible. It apparently starts at the ~~bottom~~ and goes upwards. Ogham experts tell us that the translation is "The stone of Jaquinos here, the tribesman of M_____." this latter portion apparently being defaced. The field is the property of a Mr. Davidson and he offers no objection to people going to inspect it.

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The second stone, at Knickeen, is in the Forrestry Department plantation at the extreme eastern side of Glen Imaal just where the road from Ballinaclea to Knickeen joins that coming from Seskin there is a gate into the plantation. Through this gate about 50 yards, to the right hand side, in the trees can be seen the stone. Standing in the centre of a clearing in the trees and rising to 11 or 12 feet in height it is most imposing. It is best described as being like an elongated heart. Four or five feet broad at the top, the corners are rounded and the centre indented. From this it tapers down to the point where it enters the earth. Here it is only about 2 feet broad and 1½ feet thick. Again it is down the left hand corner the scores or letters occur. In this case they appear nearer to the top and are plainly visible. The edge of the stone seems to act as a vertical line across which are drawn the horizontal ones of different lengths. I have not been able to discover a translation of this script. There is no difficulty about viewing the stone but visitors should be particular about closing gates.

Castles

The parish at one time had two castles within its confines but today, the merest fraction of one remains while only the site of the other is known.

Ballintruer Castle

This castle though little remains of it, is rather difficult to locate. By turning from the main Dublin Baltinglass road at Whitestown Cross and travelling along the road to Glen Imaal, some quarter of a mile up is met another crossroads. Here the road to the right is taken and followed for about a mile and a half until one encounters the first road to the left. Taking this road, often a short distance it enters the yard of a Mr. Wilson. Enquiries at the house will enable one to find the exact field in which the relic stands.

What is left of the castle is just a portion of the north east corner standing on what seems to have been a small rath right on the centre of the field. Portion of the other foundations can be seen earth covered and apparently the building was not very large, but the piece of wall remaining, though very thick and built of heavy stone, is insufficient for one to determine the type of architecture. Nothing definite is known about its history but it is thought it was one of the castles belonging to Clan O'Toole who were the Lords of Wicklow on this western side of the mountains. The building stands on the property of a Mr. Moody who has no objection to people visiting it.

Castlequarter Castle

Here is only the site of where this castle once stood as not a stone of the building remains. Turning again at Whitestown Cross the "Glen" road is followed to Donoghmore Crossroads, here the turning to the right is taken across Ballyhubbock bridge and a little way beyond a road which branches to the left should be followed for about a half a mile until a newly built cottage can be seen on the left. This is where the castle stood but closer inspection does not REVEAL anything, not even the traces of the foundations. The only thing which might suggest the exact site is, at the back of the cottage there is a very sharp embankment, the type of thing often associated with a caste. The land belongs to a Mr. Lynch who will let anyone interested inspect the site.

Bullaun Stones

Apart from the two mentioned in the circle at Castleruddery there are some fine examples throughout the area, and take different forms. The first one encountered is at Intack, on the land of a Mr. Neill, about a mile north of Donard. One way of locating it is, that it is a field on the right hand side of the road in which there are two small raths. A little south of these the ground cuts away sharply and a large stone is seen half buried in the ledge. This is the stone in question. The upper surface is covered with small holes varying from an inch to an inch and a half in diameter. There does not appear to be any special arrangement of them, they are just scattered over the entire surface. There is no difficulty about viewing it.

On the southern side of Donard at Cregghorn, half way between Davidstown and Donard further examples of a different kind can be seen. In a tiny paddock on the land of Mr. Richard Jones, tradition says there stood a monastery. That there was a building in it is possible, as there apparently earth covered foundations remaining, but they are so irregular that it is impossible to know what form the structure took. A little way to the west of the centre of the field can be seen a long slab like stone $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 ft long 3 ft wide at one end and narrowing to 2 ft at the other and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft thick. In the surface of the stone, three large circular basin like holes have been formed. Their diameters vary from 1 ft to $1\frac{1}{4}$ ft and they are 5 to 6 inches in depth. I might add that the stone is granite. What appears to be the other half of this stone is lying a few yards away but no holes are in it. Over twenty yards away is another stone, in this instance more or less round, measuring 4 ft x 3 ft. In the centre is a large basin like hollow which has a diameter of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft, and a depth of about 6 inches. The stone is all but completely sunk in the ground and rather heavily moss covered. A little way beyond these two stones is another stone whether it has any significance or not I do not know but it is very unusual. Taking the form of a rock that has been split into halves, it rises about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft above ground level. The division between the halves measures nearly one foot and this is grass covered but around the whole stone for a depth of about 6 or 8 inches a complete circle is filled with small stones or pebbles. The surface on which they rest, is raised an inch or two over the level of the surrounding field. An item that particularly catches the eye is that the rock has the appearance of having been cut with a knife, so sharp is the division. Person wishing to visit the place should ask for Mr. Richard Jones as there are several families of that name in the immediate neighbourhood. There is free access to the site.

Knickeen Stones

Further stones of this type are found at Knickeen at the north eastern corner of Glen Imaal. The locals call this place Brittas Corner. The stones are located in the field on the left hand side of the road, which leads from Ballinaclea to Knickeen, just before the commencement of the Forrestry Departments plantation. The field is belonging to a Mr. Tulty. Mr. O'Connell in the nearest cottage will give anyone exact directions. There are two stones, the first near a little stream which runs through the field, several feet long and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide, there are 4 holes in it. There are 5 or 6 inches deep while the fourth which apparently is two holes in one takes the shape of a foot. This would be about $1\frac{3}{4}$ ft long 6 or 7 inches wide and varies from 4 to 6 inches in depth. Another stone almost similar though not having a foot shaped hole is lying just a few yards away, this has 3 holes. There is no objection to anyone, who is interested, visiting them free.

Standing Stones

So far as is known there is only one standing stone in the Parish and it is located about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Dunlavin in the townland of Crehelp on the land of a Mr. Goggin. The stone is of granite and is about $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft high, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft thick and $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide. A little above half way from the ground an oblong hole completely pierces the stone. Its dimensions would be approximately 6 inches long by 3 inches wide. It might be added that the stone is more or less pointed at the top. An old belief was that it marked the burial site of a Danish chieftain killed in a battle hereabouts, possibly Glenmama. However, there is no confirmation of this. The owner has no objection to people looking at it without charge.

Graveyards

There are quite a number of graveyards in the parish but they do not excite any particular interest. Rathsallagh was the site of an old graveyard. This place is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south east of Dunlavin and it is in Rathsallagh Demesne the fragmentary remains of the graveyard can be seen. This consists of a couple of broken slabs in the centre of a large field and they do not appear to be particularly interesting. In this townland was a famous Fair Green which had a charter from the days of King Charles, granting his Royal subjects permission to hold a fair there. This expired in the year 1926. On the property of a Mr. Toole there is free access.

Another site of an ancient graveyard is at Kilbreeffy about half way between Donard and Donaghmore and adjoining the monastery site at Creghorn previously described. Actually it is in the next field. There are no traces of headstones about the site which is on the top of a hillock in the field. It is tradition only which marks the site. Mr. Jones is the landowner and has no objection to people inspecting it.

Leitrim Graveyard is situated in the north east corner of Glen Imaal just where the Artillery range is. This burial ground is still in use and on inspection revealed no interesting headstones. One other stone which is lying on a grave attracted my attention. A circular stone disc about 3" in diameter and a couple of inches thick, the centre being pierced by a hole of 6 inches diameter. The stone is apparently granite of a finer type than commonly found in the district. I have no idea what the stone is or represents. Free access.

Another little graveyard still in use is located at Tober about a mile and a quarter north east of Dunlavin in the shadow of Tober not previously described. The headstones are in no way interesting. Actually the graveyard is quite modern. Free access.

The graveyard surrounding the ruined Protestant Church at Donard has quite a number of interesting stones. The stone with the two crosses believed to be St. Sylvesters grave. Another slab headstone in the centre of the path inside the chapel bears an elaborately carved Coat of Arms. Several others standing against the Church wall at the entrance are worth noticing. Free access.

There are two other graveyards in the town of Dunlavin. One surrounding the Protestant Church and the other an older one now unused in the main street at the side of the market house.

Neither of these have any stones of particular interest but curiously enough a stone in the Protestant church evinces quite a deal of interest. This stone embedded in the vestry wall is what might be termed a commemoration stone, commemorating a gift by an early parishioner for the rebuilding a chancel of the church. This stone was executed in 1681 and the wording is as follows. "Cornit Anthony Hathorne, out of his pious zeal, etc. The place of Gods worship bequeathed 50^{LIB} sterling for the rebuilding of this chancel which was faithfully performed by the pious care of Mr. Phillip Hathorne his nephew and heir. Anno Domini 1681. " Permission may be obtained from the rector to view this stone.

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.

None

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

There is a holy well dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra about a quarter of a mile east of the town of Dunlavin. Some years ago there was a pattern to it but it has since been discontinued. There is nothing of particular note about the actual well, but above it, there is a stone slab bearing an Episcopal mitre on the left hand corner, the right hand corner is broken off while in the centre are carved the words "Saint Nicholas pray for us." Strangely enough it is not known locally why this well was so dedicated or what connection St. Nicholas had with the place. Various cures such as the cure for toothache were ascribed to the healing properties of the water. There is a path through the field opposite the parish priests house leading directly to the well so that there is no difficulty in locating it. Free access.

Signed J. A. Pattison.

Surveyor.

Date 14th October, 1943.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Sports and Games

Barony of Talbotstown LowerTOWN OR VILLAGE Dunlavin PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY WicklowANGLING (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 Slaney Nearest point to town (Distance) 4 miles

Kinds of Fish Held:

Salmon Brown Trout

Average Weight of:

Salmon _____ Sea Trout _____ Brown Trout 3 to 4 ozs. and up to 1/2 lb.

Best Seasons for:

Salmon _____ Sea Trout _____ Brown Trout April to JulySuitable Flies:

Salmon _____

Sea Trout _____

Brown Trout Wicklow Killer, Wickhams Fancy, Blue Body, Wrens etc.,

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

Free except on one stretch

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Mr. R. Fenton, Ballinaclea, Donard, preserves the portionwhich runs through his land from practically Siskin Bridge,Glen of Imaal to about the fifth field beyond Ballinaclea House.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available)

Dunlavin, Donard, Glen of ImaalLocal Angling Club None Membership Fee -

Lawn Tennis _____ No _____ Kinds of courts _____ - _____

Croquet _____ No _____

Billiards In Imaal Hall. 1 Table _____

Badminton In Imaal Hall (suspended owing to emergency) _____

Table Tennis In Imaal Hall. 1 Table _____

Bridge Club _____ No _____

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club _____ None _____

ANNUAL EVENTS

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

Only the Annual Coursing Meetings Promoters Coursing Club _____

No pilgrimage or pattern now. _____

(signed) J.A. PATTISON
Surveyor

Date 23rd Sept 1943

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

Sports and Games

Barony of Talbotstown Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Donard PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

ANGLING (Fresh Water)

RIVER Donard River Nearest point to town (distance) 1/4 mile

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown Trout

Average Weight Of:

Salmon _____ Sea Trout _____ Brown Trout Up to 1/2 lb.

Suitable Flies:

Salmon _____

Sea Trout _____

Brown Trout Wickhams Fancy, March Brown, Quills, Butcher, etc.

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

Entirely free.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available)

Donard and Dunlavin

Local Angling Club None.

(Signed) J.A. PATTISON
Surveyor

Date 14:9:43

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

Sports and Games

Barony of Talbotstown Lower.

TOWN OR VILLAGE Dunlavin PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

ANGLING (Fresh Water)

River The Drain Nearest point to town (distance) $1\frac{1}{2}$ Donard
 $3\frac{1}{2}$ Dunlavin

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown Trout

Average Weight of:

Salmon _____ Sea Trout _____ Brown Trout 2-3 ozs.

Suitable Flies:

Salmon _____

Sea Trout _____

Brown Trout Any of the ordinary patterns.

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

Free but very little use.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available)

Dunlavin

Local Angling Club None

(Signed) J.A. PATTISON
SURVEYOR

Date 14.9.43

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

Barony of Talbotstown Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Donard PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

Location and brief description. Population 150 approx.

The village of Donard is located about 28 miles south-west of Dublin, five miles due east of Dunlavin and 8 miles north of Baltinglass. It is a nice little village nestling at the foot of a range of hills which form the western foothills of the Wicklow Mountains. The village consists of a number of houses and shops clustered around a small green. It is remarkable in having two churches and the remains of two other churches.

Is there a Town Hall? No

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

No

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Pump water and dry lavatories.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest Station Dunlavin Distance 5 miles Bus? On main road. Approx 1½ miles.

Public lighting by - electricity? Yes Gas?

DANCING

Dance hall No.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas No

Theatre No

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church R.C. Church, Donard Services (Sundays) 9 am. & 11.30
every fourth
Sunday

Church of Ireland, Donard 10.30 a.m.

R.C. Church, Davidstown 11.30 S.T.

C. of Ireland, Knockanannigan 4.30 p.m.

C. of Ireland, Donaghmore. 12 noon

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Main Square.

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

BANKING

Banks None.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? No

Public Baths? No

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

None

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

None

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

R.C. National School, Donard ditto Davidstown.

Protestant School (National) Donaghmore

Protestant School (National) Knockanannigan

R.C. National School, Seskin.

HOSPITALS

Baltinglass nearest _____

FAIRS AND MARKETS; HALF-HOLIDAYS

Monthly fairs and markets _____ None

Weekly market day _____ None

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

_____ None

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners)

Taxis _____ None

Motors (Touring) _____ None

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location _____ No particular sites

Local Improvements Committee _____ None

(Signed) J.A. PATTISON

Date 23rd SEPT 1943

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

Barony of Talbotstown Lower

TOWN Dunlavin PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

Location and brief description. Population 404 ('stat.abstr.'
Sept. 1949)

The town of Dunlavin is located 30 miles south-west of Dublin, 10 miles north of Baltinglass and 12 miles due south from Naas. It is probably the second town of West Wicklow. It is constructed in the shape of the letter 'T' the leg forming the principal street. The first item which strikes the visitor is the 'Town Hall' whose unusual architecture is attractive. The two wide, clean, well kept streets give the town a pleasing appearance.

Is there a Town Hall? Yes Location Centre of main street.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Good water supply and sewerage system, both well availed of.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest Station Dunlavin Distance at end of town Bus? No. Main
road 4 miles
away nearest

Public lighting by - Electricity? Yes Gas? No

DANCING

Dance Hall Imaal Hall Proprietor Owned by a Committee
Mr. John Cunningham one
of the principals.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas No regular cinema Pictures shown Usually Monday and
but pictures shown (nights)
Wednesday nights.
in Imaal Hall

Theatre No Kind of shows No

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries No

Private Lending Libraries Mrs. Doyle, Post Office, Main Street.

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church R.C. Church, Dunlavin Services (Sundays) 8.30 & 11.30

R. C. Church

Church of Ireland 11.30 a.m.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Main Street.

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

BANKING

Banks Munster and Leinster Bank

Branch of Ulster Bank open Wednesdays and Saturdays

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers None

Photographic Stores Mr. O'Higgins, Chemist, Main Street.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? None Public Baths? None

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, etc.

Social Clubs C.Y.M.S. Imaal Hall.

Cultural Societies None

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries None

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, etc)

None

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

None

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Town Hall is the only building which boasts a distinct type of architecture. It is a most imposing structure (though now decaying rapidly owing to neglect) and is Doric in style which I believe is comparatively rare in this country. Built entirely of cut stone, the grooved, domed roof is also of stone. In this tower, until comparatively recent times, was the famous "Bell of Kilkenny", which has been restored to the Black Abbey, Kilkenny.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Catholic and Protestant National Schools, Dunlavin branch of Technical Schools, Dunlavin.

HOSPITALS

Baltinglass nearest.

FAIRS AND MARKETS; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets 1st Tuesday of each month

Weekly market day None Half-holiday Thursday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

H. Coleborn, Main Street.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis Mr. Coleborn Mr. Fisher, Main Street.

Mr. Thomas, Market Square.

Motors (Touring) As above.

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location No particular sites

Local Improvements Committee No

(Signed) J. A. PATTISON

SURVEYOR

Date 23rd Sept 1943

BARONY Talbotstown Lower

COUNTY Wicklow

TOWN OR VILLAGE Dunlavin

HOTELS	No. Guest Bedrooms	No. Of Baths	No. of Lavs	No. of Public Rooms	Licensed	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS & CAFES
--------	--------------------	--------------	-------------	---------------------	----------	---------	---------------------

Railway Hotel] - Lawless							
Tynte Arms] Dunlavin	5	1	1	2	Yes	Adequatley furnished. Food Good.	Mrs. FitzPatrick, Main St. Dunlavin runs a small restaurant.

Tynte Arms	5	1	1	2	No	Recently acq. not yet in proper working order.	Mrs. Condren, Donard, gives teas and refreshments.
------------	---	---	---	---	----	--	--

GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES

Miss. Doyle, Post Office, Dunlavin.	3	1	1	2	No	Fair	
-------------------------------------	---	---	---	---	----	------	--

Mrs. FitzPatrick, Main St. Dunlavin.	1	No	1	2	No	Very mediocre in appearance but fairly clean.	
--------------------------------------	---	----	---	---	----	---	--

Miss. Jones, Bushfield, Donard.	4	-	1	2	No	Nicely furnished, perfectly kept, little extra sun lounge.	
---------------------------------	---	---	---	---	----	--	--

Mrs. Flynn, Donard.	3	-	1	1	No	Not well furnished, poorly kept.	
---------------------	---	---	---	---	----	----------------------------------	--

An Oige Hostel, Ballinadia] - 2 rooms in mens hostel (1 dormitory, 1 livingroom) 1 lav. outside.
 2 houses - 1 men, 1 women] - 2 rooms in womens hostel (1 dormitory, 1 livingroom) 1 lav. outside.

Mrs. Phillips, Phillips Cross.	4	No	1	1	Yes	Mediocre	
--------------------------------	---	----	---	---	-----	----------	--

(Signed) J. A. PATTISON

DATE 23rd SEPT 1943

SURVEYOR

DUBLIN.

Photos.

Dunlavin psh.



Dunlavin Parish

~~Cromlech at~~
Dolmen near Donard
~~Brownfield~~

Pattison



Dunlavin. Parish

Stone

~~Druid~~

Quile,

Castlemiddery

Pattison

1



Dunlavin Parish

"Church" on Church

Mountain.

Pattison

J



Dunlavin Parish

Hoxey's cottage, scene of escape of Michael Dwyer
& heroic death of Sam Mac Allister

~~Michael Dwyer~~

~~Cottage,~~ Pattison

~~Denmark~~



Dunlavin Parish
Pattison

Church Mountain

D



Dunlavin Parish

The Market

House, Dunlavin

Pattison

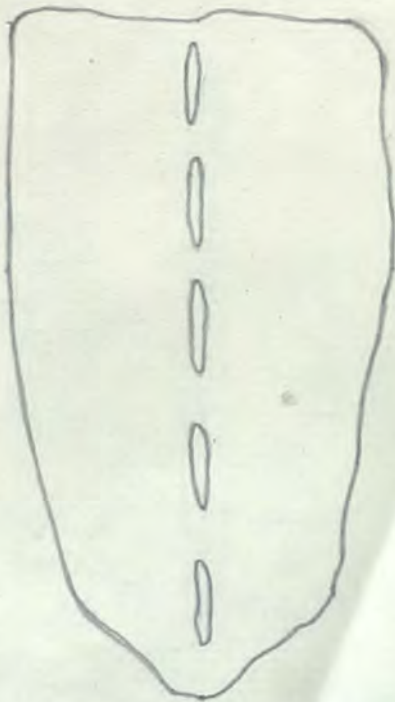
1

Dunlavin psh.,

Ruins of church - said
to have been founded by
St. Palladius - on Church Mtn.,
near Donard.

CASTLERUDDERY CIRCLE

NO. 1.



SCALE

1" to 1 foot

NO 2. CASTLE RUDDERY CIRCLE

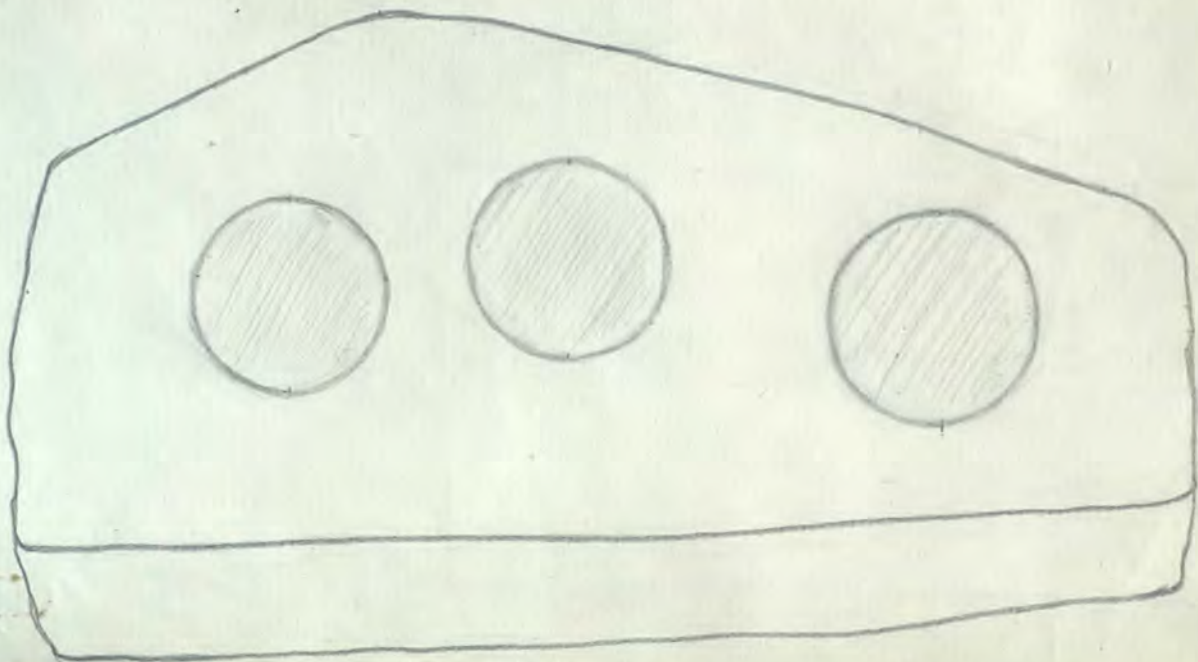


SCALE:-

1" to 1 foot.

Bullaun Stone Creaghmore

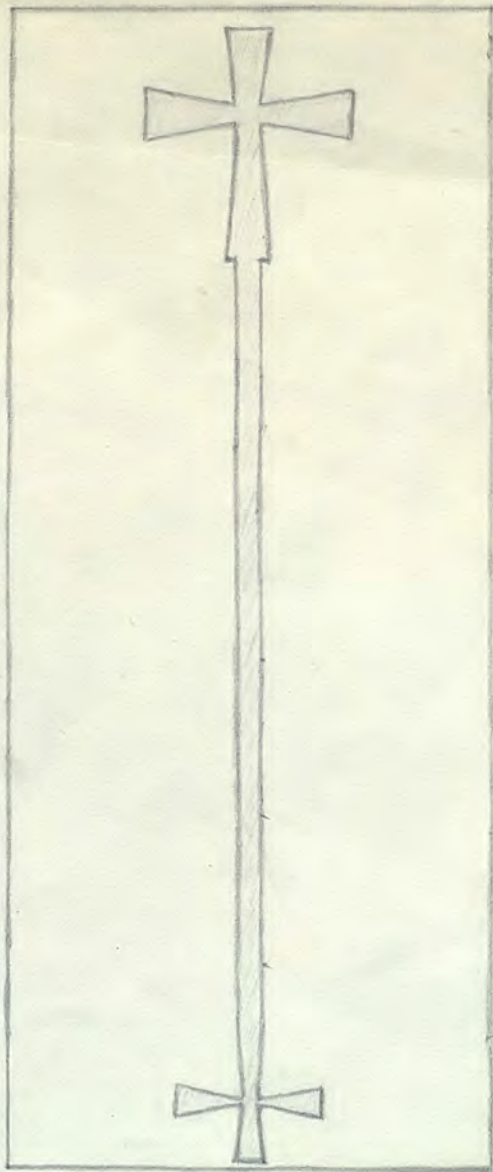
Scale: 1" to 1ft.



Drawing of Headstone
in Donard Graveyard
reputed to be Saint
Aylmer's grave.

Scale :-

1 inch to 1 foot



10

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Talbotstown Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Dunlavin PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Dunlavin is situated in centre of West Wicklow the principal town of which is Dunlavin, some 30 miles South of Dublin 12 miles S.E. of Naas and ten miles north of Ballynascree. This parish must rank as one of the most beautiful in all Wicklow embracing as it does the lovely Glen of Imaal, Luquagulla, (3035ft) monarch of the Wicklow mountains the youthful river Slaney, Burch mountain whose summit is crowned with the "church" of Galladius christian predecessor of St. Patrick and the hills of ^{GEOLOGY} Tourmant overlooking the plains of Kildare.

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

Here like most of the other parishes of south and west Wicklow the predominant feature are the bare treeless, smooth looking mountains whose gaunt appearance due to their granite composition, bestows on them a mapstic appearance and lends them a singular beauty. The Glen of Imaal is formed by a complete circle of mountains and hills, this formation is not usually met with and the saucerlike valley ^{MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES} is enhanced by its ^{lofty} ~~mountain~~ ^{guardians} OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

The only house of this type in the parish is Tynte Park, situated about 2 miles above Dunlavin on the Tourmant hills. The house is a fine big square structure very like the Georgian houses of the late eighteenth century. There is nothing at all ornate about it and the only relieving feature is a granite pillared portico. Unfortunately the owner Miss Tynte was not in residence during the survey with the result little information was available. There is neither a library nor art gallery and the reason of it being interesting at all is that it has housed the Tynte family for generations. This family is generally recognised to have been the founders of Dunlavin and built the market house of unusual Doric architecture. Members of this family have been killed but as far as can be gathered there is no titled member living. ^{See a large estate attached to the house}

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Note - This page, due to an oversight was left unfilled by some of the more important items, so the following items should be relegated to their proper places.

Rathes or Rathens

The principal rath in this parish is located at Donard Demesne east. Passing through Donard and following the road which leads to Glen Inaal to where it branches to the left, the branch road should be followed up over the hills for about 1/2 miles. Here a very well kept farmhouse is owned by a Mr. Monks on whose land is the rath. It is located about two fields away at the back of the house and it is an unusually fine specimen. It consists of three concentric rings and two dykes or ditches. The inner plateau, which is surrounded by the inner dyke, has a diameter around 45 or 50 feet. The dyke is in the region of 8 feet in depth and something the same in width. Then comes the second ring having an equal height to ^{that of} the centre plateau. This earthwork is several feet wide and outside is the second dyke similar to the inner one except that it is a little wider. The bank outside this dyke is a shade higher but slopes down on the outside to the level of the surrounding field. As a whole the entire earthwork is in a fair state of preservation. Some spots are inclined to crumble but so far no serious damage has been done. It is not in the care of the Board of Works but the owner has received notification that he must not allow it to be damaged in any way. To any person interested it is well worth seeing and there is free access.

Mulladaragh Rath. This rath is located in the townland of Knockan daragh to the right of the road leading from Donard to Glen Inaal and about a mile and a half from Donard. It is quite a good length up the hillside and any intending visitor should get directions locally. The rath is just a circular earthwork, the sides being raised four or five feet high and a shallow ditch of not more than a couple of feet outside it. The diameter is around 60 feet and it is in a fair state of preservation. On the opposite side of the road there is also another little rath but they are so ordinary and common that they are of little interest.

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

The larger Mulladaragh rath is on the land of a Mrs. Grace who does not object to anyone visiting it.

Dunlavin Parish

Outline of Interesting Features.

"Where is Dunlavin?" This question if often asked, would receive in a great number of cases an evasive if not a negative reply. Surely there must be some means of making this wonderful area better known. Most people know West Wicklow to be a beautiful country but somehow give the ~~an~~ impression that they are unfamiliar with it and do not regard it, as probably, the more beautiful part of the "Garden of Ireland." Yet what does it offer? This parish alone offers a variety of features which must be hard to equal anywhere. Glorious scenery, pre-Christian monuments, the birthplace of Christianity in Ireland, conflicts with the Norsemen, traditions of Michael Dwyer and Ireland's struggle for freedom in '98, tragedy in the form of massacre and above everything an air of freedom and tranquility which is all pervading.

The parish is subdivided into Donard the eastern half ~~and~~ ^{of} Dunlavin the western half ~~which~~ embraces the town of that name. Here near Dunlavin at Tobin and Tourmant are outstanding relics of the Druids, others are found in great numbers throughout the entire parish proving that a great pre-Christian settlement flourished here.

History tells us that the kings of Leinster had their Royal residence at Dunlavin up to the Christian era, and what more suitable place could they have chosen overlooking as it does the plains of Kildare, Carlow and South Dublin. "Glenmama" scene of a great slaughter of the Danes, and source of so much controversy, is according to the "Four Masters" the place of that name located a few miles east of the town.

Donard, quaint homely little village, nestling under Church Mountain, even excels Dunlavin in wealth of feature and tradition. Relics of pagan times abound and here it was that St. Palladius first established the Christian faith prior to the advent of St. Patrick. Palladius on his return to Rome left St. Sylvester in charge; and an unusual headstone, marked with a bishops cross, in the old graveyard is reputed to be the place where he is interred. St. Patrick it is said finding the church at Donard went on his way and founded another at Senaughmore.

On to the lovely "Glen of Imaal" named after

Wál brother of Cahimor King of Ireland, gem of Wicklow scenery, birth place of the Slaney and scene of Michael Dwyer's exploits. This delightful valley apart from its associations will entrance the visitor and should one travel to Derramuck the remains of Hoxey's cottage, from which Dwyer escaped and where the brave Sam McAllister gave his life for his friends are still to be seen. Here antiquarian and sportsman, nature lover and historians are amply catered for and even the most indifferent cannot fail to be moved by the wealth of natural beauty everywhere.

Truly can it be said of this area, "to see it is to know it and to know it is to love it". It is ^{to be} hoped that people abroad and more particularly those at home may become more conversant with West Wicklow and give it the place in public favour it so justly deserves.

Dunlavin Parish
General Features

The parish of Dunlavin is bounded on the north by the parish of Ballymore Eustace, to the west it touches Keshildare, the southern end adjoins Ballyglass while on the eastern flank the Wicklow mountains form the bastion. Topographically it is divided into ~~two~~ halves by a valley running north and south the terrain to the west embraces Dunlavin and neighboring townlands and that to the east, Donard and Glen of Inaal. The combined areas form a long rectangle running north west to south east. The town of Dunlavin is at the western extremity, Donard is almost in the centre and the Glen of Inaal terminates the eastern district. The entire parish is on high ground, but the western portion is considerably the lower. This part is composed of the Tourmant, Dunlavin and neighbouring hills, all of which would be somewhere in the region of 600ft. To the east of the dividing valley, rise the Donard hills varying in height from six to eight hundred feet. Both these ranges of hills form the western foothills of the Wicklow mountains. Still further east rise the Wicklow range proper under the dominance of towering Lugnaquilla (3035) and form a complete circle to guard as it were the valley below. Church mountain, ¹⁷⁸⁹ to the

north west of this circle, is the most conspicuous mountain in the parish. Its long smooth, brown and heather colored sides surmounted by the "Church" are visible from practically every part of the area. The "Slaney" conceived on the slopes of Lugnaquilla winds its tortuous way thro' the "Glen" to emerge at Booterstown and flow southwards. An interesting feature is the valley which divides the parish, the appearance of which is, that it was at one time a river bed. It commences in the form of a "ravine" and broadens into a smooth valley as it goes south and joins up with the valley of the Slaney.

Outstanding Scenery.

"There is not in this wide world a valley so sweet" How fitting would these words of Moore be to describe the lovely "Glen of Imaal". Tucked away in the heart of Wicklow's highest mountains, cradled by lonely Lugnaquilla, guarded jealously by neighbouring peaks and watered by the infant "Slaney".

To stand on the hills which form the western boundary of this entrancing vale, to see the peaks on either side rising to meet their majestic leader directly opposite, to observe the fertile land below, well wooded to the north, chequered with fields to the south, all green and gold in the sunlight. The mountains varying their colours each minute, the soft green slopes at ones feet is a sight long to be remembered.

The whole valley comprises one vast Amphitheatre, the walls of which are formed by the following ^{the leading from South} ^{to the East} peaks:† Brusselsstown Hill (1320) Keadeen (2146) Slieveagh (1556) Slievean (2501) Lugnaquilla (3039) Leoh 1894 Stianahely 2100 Sugarloaf 1817 and Newpark mountain (2097) with the Donard hills forming the western gateway.

This valley is located at the south eastern end of Dunlavin parish about 2 miles S.E. of Donard, thirty miles south of Dublin and approximately 7 miles east of Dunlavin. †(leading from South via the East).

Second only to "Imaal" in beauty is a remarkably lovely view to be seen from Tourmant just above the entrance to Rye Park. Here the road ^{which} wanders over Tourmant hill reaches its maximum altitude of several hundred feet. From this point the ground slopes gently eastwards until it merges with the valley below. Church mountain designed almost to suit its name forms the principal background. A little to the left.

is seen the sharp defile of beautiful Hollywood Glen. ^{4.}
While to the right the Donard hills appear to be but
stepping stones to the great peaks beyond. The long
smooth treeless slopes of Church mountain offer contrasting
tones in the sunlight, the pink, brown and green tints relieving
the persistent grey. Below is well wooded Donard whose
dark foliage, accentuating the soft green of the valley forms
a perfect foot note for the picture.

From this same view point, looking to the west, the scene
is in sharp contrast. As far as the eye can see lie the
flat green plains of Kildaw, South Dublin, Meath, Carlow
and Westmeath. Myriads of fields variegated in colour,
gold and brown, fawn and emerald stretching everywhere
would seem, endlessly, softened only by the darker foliage
of the intervening trees. Away on the horizon to the west
can be seen, often but dim outlines, the hills which terminate
the vast plain.

A view of remarkable beauty can be obtained, should
one so desire, by ascending Church mountain. Crowned
by its "Church", (attributed to St. Palladius,) which can be
seen from afar, it provides a not too arduous climb.
Though glorious vistas can be seen all round, it is to the
north ones eyes are attracted, where lying far below, cradled
beneath the smooth brown hills, are the huge twin lakes of
Geulaphuca. These lakes, fruits of man's handiwork, rival nature
at her best. Let ones gaze wander to the east, and here
opens the famous valley of Glendride stretches between the
harsh forbidding peaks which form it. Some of these mountains
have their smooth brown sides, cut and slashed as it were
by the black lines of the turf hogs, yet on the valley goes
ere it turns sharply through the inner range on its way
to Glendalough. Here, nature aided by man, has formed a
scenic paradise that has to be seen to be believed.

Another pleasant view is to be had when standing on the ^{hills} ~~road~~ at
~~Donard~~ ^{Phillipstown} about half way between Donard and ~~Phillipstown~~ ^{Phillipstown} by facing
west. Lying directly below is the valley, running north to south, which
bisects the parish. Here it reaches its greatest width and looks soft
and green. A little to the right at Phillipstown Crossroads can be seen
a sharp cleft in the hills, reminiscent of an ancient river bed, and
darker than its surroundings being heavily splashed with gorse.
~~At~~ ^{At} the opposite side of the valley the hills roll gently to where
they terminate at Dunlavin. To the south the valley quickly
narrows and runs through a sharp defile between the hills ere
it widens out beyond. Through the entire length of the valley
a tiny river wanders slowly. It is known as "The Drain" probably
due to the fact that it is perfectly straight and its sides are sharply
cuts. The absence of dwellings in this part of the vale gives it a
rather wild appearance but nevertheless it appears wrapped in
peace and tranquility.

A larger view can be got at Keshamore on the Donard and Phillipstown road
embracing a second valley, with Donard and Church mountain to the north ^{east}.

The places already described are the scenic highlights of the parish, but from practically every part of it, an excellent view can be seen, though they are principally variations of the aforementioned scenes. It is surprising the remarkable change in the scenery by altering the viewpoint even the smallest amount.

Roads

Throughout the entire parish the roads, though hilly and heavy for cycling, have excellent surfaces. Even the lesser roads and those in the most backward places are a vast improvement to those found in the other portions of South and West Wicklow.

It is worth mentioning here that there are three other tiny villages, consisting of merely a few houses, in the parish. They are Knockanarrigan, in Glen Inaal, Davids Town at the entrance to it and ~~Castleruddery~~ Donoughmore, a little further west. All are on the road, ^{which} ~~lead~~ from the main Dublin-Baltinglass road to the "Glen". Each one of them is clustered around a church and school, and for all their smallness they have a certain attractiveness, which may be accredited to the fact that they are clean and tidy.

Historic Sites continued

Dwyer replied that he had forced an entrance into the house and that before he would parley they should be allowed to pass out to safety. This being granted, Dwyer then said he and his friends would never surrender alive. Accordingly the soldiers opened fire which the rebels returned. In the course of the fighting Mr Allister was wounded but fought on though his arm was shattered. Eventually the soldiers set fire to the house and when it was no longer tenable Mr Allister suggested to Dwyer that he (Mr Allister) should open the door and when the soldiers had discharged their rifles Dwyer should dash out and make good his escape. Dwyer demurred but after much entreaty by Mr Allister he eventually agreed. To his brave comrade's aid Dwyer leaped across his body and fled. Even then fate saved his life for as the next volley was fired he slipped on the snow and the bullets sped harmlessly over him. Barefooted and clad only in night attire he sped across the glen hotly pursued by a Big Highlander who was very anxious to secure his capture, but having crossed the Slaney's icy water he eventually eluded him and reached safety though in an extremely exhausted condition. All that remains of the cottage

is part of one gable and small pieces of the side walls surrounded by a rubble of the stones which once formed its walls. It is a great disgrace that what should constitute a National Monument should be allowed to lie in such a derelict state. There is no difficulty in finding the place as once in the "Slu" any man, woman or child will give the necessary directions. It is on the land of a Mr Hoxey Demanuck and there is free access to the site.

Another historic site is the "Fair Green" at Dunlavin. The massacre of thirty six unarmed men on the spot will make it live in history. Members of the Wicklow militia they were also United Irishmen; and one morning when parading on the green their leader a Capt Saunders was told that some of his men belonged to the then illegal organization. He questioned them to that effect and thirty six stood forward, whereupon he had them shot on ~~the~~ ^{that} spot, and it is a pity that no memorial marks the site.

Antiquities

6

Probably, the most interesting antiquity in the parish is St Palladius Church which is located on the summit of Church Mountain. It is about six miles east of Dunlavin and three miles north east of Donard.

The structure commonly called the Church is the ruins of what was apparently some type of building. That it was a house or church of some sort is quite evident as there still remain the earth covered foundations.

The form it takes at the moment is a circle of about 15 ft in diameter of small and medium ^{aged} stone, light grey in colour and all having a rather brittle surface. These stones apparently constituted the walls of the building. At various points in the circle the stones have been piled high in cairn like heaps, but this is probably due to the casual visitor who is usually informed, that by adding a stone a wish will be granted.

Judging from the foundations the building was apparently about 30 ft long and 30 ft wide in was divided in halves forming two rooms. The structure ran from east to west.

Under the stones of the circle on the western side is a well. This has been properly constructed as the sides are stone lined. It is known as St Palladius well and is considered a holy well. Around it can be seen many tokens such as medals, beads ribbons etc, left there.

There is a possibility that this may never have been a church but something of the type of a ring fort similar to that on Ballyglass hill.

There are several schools of antiquarians who are controversial regarding the above antiquity. One says it was St Palladius church, another states that his church was founded somewhere near the present Catholic Church at Donard while yet another says it was further south. Apparently they are in accord that he did found a church thereabouts and that it was St Sylvester whom he left in charge on his return to Rome. Having spent some time there he set out to come again to Eire but died on his way and is buried in Scotland where he is still venerated. His coming to the country is believed to have been about 430 or 431 about a year or so before St Patrick, who it is said was surprised to find him established there and went on to Donoughmore to found a church of his own.

The antiquities in this parish are so numerous and of such varied interest that it is difficult to assign to each its degree of importance, so that classification into types will probably be a better solution.

Druidical Relics

That this area flourished in the time of the Druids is evident from the number of relics still extant. Chief among these at the moment is the Druids circle or Pipers Stones at

Castleruddery which is six miles east of Dunlavin and 3 1/2 to 4 south of Bonard. The circle is located just off the road which, leaving the main Dublin-Daltingless road at Whitestown Cross, runs through Castleruddery, and Donoghmore on to Glen Inaal. Quarter of a mile west of Castleruddery cross on land owned by a Mrs Doody and rented by a Mr Wayne and slightly visible on the right hand side of the road, when facing east, is the circle. It is composed of between 40 and 50 large stones in a ring. Some are standing upright while others are horizontal. Several slabs are lying near the centre of the ring. The stones for the most part are granite but a number are of pure white quartz and some of apparently limestone. Several of the upright stones would reach a height of 5 feet and are 3 or 4 feet thick. Those lying down are in a lot of cases much larger and must weigh several tons. Just inside the ring at the northeast corner is what appears to be a "Bullaug" stone. This is an oblong stone 3 1/2 feet long and 2 1/2 feet wide and lengthwise along the surface have been cut five or six long narrow holes. (See diagram D) Just outside the ring is another stone of the same category but of peculiar design. It is an oval which has been cut in two. The remaining half is four feet long and four feet wide narrowing to a point. At the point of breakage the edge is serrated ² as if in a semicircle as if there were a number of holes in the stone prior to the breakage. About one foot back from this edge, across the width of the stone are four small circular cavities an inch or so in diameter. In its entirety the ring is quite attractive looking apart from its interest. There is free access and even to people uninterested in Antiquities it is worth a visit.

Note 1 + 2. Drawings submitted

The remains of a second circle, consisting now of only a few scattered stones is to be seen at Tourant near the summit of an old moat. Some years ago this circle was much more complete and a remarkable stone, since removed, was to be seen on the summit. The present stones are quite small being not more than a couple of feet either way. The arrangement of the stones is barely circular and unevenly spaced. This ring is located on the land of a Mr Norton at Tourant about 2 1/2 miles east of the town of Dunlavin. Free access.

A third circle is found in this parish in the townland of Forresten. On the land of a Mr Cunningham it is about 2 miles east of Dunlavin. The entrance gate to the house is on the Forresten road and it beyond the second gate in front of the house that the ring is found. It consists of about 40 small stones in ring. The diameter would be approx 30 feet and the position of the stones fairly symmetrical

The stones are for the most part rounded and few of them would be over 18 inches high. There is nothing outstanding about the ring or the stones themselves. The proprietors give permission to view it to people so desirous.

Motes and Tumuli

A number of these antiquities are located throughout the parish and if not the most important at least the most spectacular is the tumulus at Tober, about a mile and a quarter north east of Dunlavin. This earthen mound owing to its shape is most arresting. The lower portion commencing at the ground is about a couple of hundred feet in length and about 35 ft high, and runs east to west. At the eastern extremity rises a circular mote of 20 or 25 ft which tapers from base to summit. Viewing the whole from the south it looks like a large mote and Bailey with well ridged sides. The diameter of the summit of the mote would be in the region of 50 feet and where it joins the lower structure about 70 ft. Viewed from the top the northern side can be seen to be much less steep than the southern owing to the fact that the ground is considerably higher here. Trees growing around its higher levels and summit add to its attractiveness. Unfortunately, apart from the fact that it is believed to be a pre-Christian burial mound, nothing further is known about it. At the back of it is the remains of a once fine mansion owned by the Fyffe family. In front of the mound is what remains of a small artificial canal and strangely enough these items enhance the general appearance. On the property of a Mr. Whinnock there is free access.

Tournant is the scene of another spectacular mote. This structure sits high on the summit ^{the southern} of part of the hill of Tournant, which takes the form of a ridge running north to south from Forrester to Tournant. This circular mound surrounded by a well formed fosse or dyke rises to a height of about 25 ft and situated as it is on the height it looks to be much higher. Its diameter at the top would be around 40 ft. Part of the western slope has been unfortunately cut away. This it is believed was part of the Royal residence of the Kings of Leinster until a short time after the advent of Christianity. Undoubtedly it was an excellent choice on their part to select this spot for their home from whence they commanded a full view of, it is said, seven counties. It is on the land of a Mr. Fisher and anyone wishing to visit it may do so free of charge.

Antiquities Continued

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A few hundred yards to the east is encountered another mote like structure. The ground here is uneven and it is difficult to determine exactly the height of the mote. In this case the fosse or dyke is absent though about 20 yards east is a smaller mote like structure, around which are the remains of the Druids circle previously described, and still further 20 yds is an again smaller mote. This latter one though only a few feet high and not very wide is probably the best shaped one of the three. These motes it is believed were the burial places of the Princes and people who lived here. This chain of mounds with their tradition and remarkable sites are attractive and interesting and the visitor to this area should certainly inspect them. These are on Mr Norton's property who lives just beside them and permission has been granted by him for anyone to view them. Tourant by the way is about one mile east and in full view of the tower of Dunlavin.

A third mote nearby and one which is very well known is that at Lemonstown about 2½ mile N. East of Dunlavin. This mound with its encircling trees can be seen from as far away as Paulaphuca, and constitutes an effective landmark. The mound is earthen and well shaped rising about 20 or 25 feet as it tapers towards the top, the diameter of which is around 40 ft. At the base the earthen dyke or ditch still is visible. In fact the whole is quite well preserved. No traditions remain regarding it. On property owned by Mr P. Lawler Dunlavin again there is free access.

Travelling east to Donard, there can be seen at the southern extremity of the village, quite high above it and as it were guarding it, another well formed mote. This well known antiquity is called the "Ball mote" for what reason I was unable to find out. This structure is slightly different. The ground rises at this side of the village and it is pushed on top so that it appears tremendously high where in fact it would hardly exceed 20 feet. In this instance the summit has been hollowed out to a depth of a few feet leaving an earthen parapet all round. From the top an excellent view of the surrounding country can be had. There is no dyke surrounding this erection the diameter of which would be 35 to 40 ft. Owned by a Mr Allen who lives in the adjoining cottage there is again free access.

Another mote is located at Ballyhaddock bridge just below Castlebridey cross roads, and is plainly visible from the road leading from Whitestown cross to Glen Inaal. It is in a fair state of preservation and has quite a good external appearance. The structure which is completely earthen slopes up to a height of around 30 or 35 feet. The diameter on the top would be something about the same. That a deep ditch or fosse surrounded it is evident but it has been cut or levelled in a lot of places so that only the suggestion remains. This mote is built just a few yards in from the bank of the river Slaney which must have afforded a deal of additional fortification. Like the nearby Druids Circle it is on the property of Mrs. Goody and there is free access.

Lastly, is found, tucked away in the north west corner of Glen Inaal, at Drumree, another earthen mote which is quite remarkable, not so much for its construction as for its position. Here the western hills forming the western boundary of the gut into the valley in the shape of a small promontory ^{Perched high on the edge of this is seen the mote.}

The actual artificial structure is not more than about 10ft high but the eastern edge is flush with the cliff leaving an almost sheer drop of about 80 or 90 feet. Around the other sides a deep trench about 10ft wide surrounds it. The summit has been hollowed out to the depth of a few feet leaving an earthen wall about 2ft wide to form the circumference. The diameter here is about 40 feet.

Here is an excellent view of the "Glen" from this point and the owner Mr. Grace, ^{who lives in nearest house} grants permission to anyone to visit it.

Dolmen at Donard

There is only this one example of this type of antiquity in the parish and this is located on a Mr. Phillips land about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile west of Donard village. It is quite visible on the left hand side from the main road from Phillips Cross to Donard.

The dolmen consists of three large upright stones of approximately the same height in the region of ^{six} feet. Their ~~width~~ ^{breadth} varies from around four to six feet and ^{their} width is up to a couple of feet. The fourth stone which was the cap stone has been pushed from its horizontal position on top and now rests against the others. This is the largest stone and ~~it~~ measures about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft in length, 4 or 5 ft wide and several feet thick. This must have been a very excellent specimen of dolmen and it is quite a shame that some men pushed the cap stone from its position. There is permission for anyone who wishes to visit it free of charge.

Ogham Stones

Two specimens of these relics, of one of the earliest forms of writing left to us, are found in the parish. The first is at Donard, in the grounds of the Demesne, and the second at Knockree at the eastern side of Glenmaol.

The first is located in the Demesne field directly opposite the Civil Guard barracks at Donard, about 200 yards in from the road. It is standing in the centre of trees and shrubs and is not easily seen. However if the visitor enters the shrubbery he cannot fail to locate it.

The stone itself is tall & square, approx 5 ft in height and about a foot and a half either way. The scores or markings which are the writing, are found on the left hand corner and are clearly visible. It apparently starts at the bottom and goes upwards. Ogham experts tell us that the translation is "The stone of Jaquinos here, the tribesman of M—". This latter portion apparently being defaced. The field is the property of a Mr Davidson and he offers no objection to people going in to inspect it.

The second stone, at Knockree, is in the Forestry Department plantation at the extreme eastern side of Glenmaol just where the road from Ballinacree to Knockree joins that coming from Baskins there is a gate into the plantation. Through this gate about 50 yds, to the right, ^{hand side} in the trees can be seen the stone. Standing in the centre of a clearing in the trees and rising to 11 or 12 feet in height it is most imposing. It is best described as being like an elongated heart. Four or five feet broad at the top, the corners are rounded and the centre indented. From this it tapers down to the point where it enters the earth. Here it is only about 2 feet broad and 1 1/2 feet thick. Again it is down the left hand corner the scores or letters occur. In this case they appear nearer to the top and are plainly visible. The edge of the stone seems to act as a vertical line across which are drawn the horizontal ones of different lengths. I have not been able to discover a translation of this script. There is no difficulty about viewing the stone but visitors should be particular about closing gates.

Castles.

The parish at one time had two castles within its confines but to day, the merest fraction of one remains while only the site of the other is known.

Ballenroe Castle

This castle though little remains of it, is rather difficult to locate. By turning from the main Dublin Daltinglass road at Whitestown Cross and travelling along the road to Glen Small, some quarter of a mile up ~~we~~ is met another crossroads. Here the road to the right is taken and followed for about a mile and a half until one encounters the first road to the left. Taking this road, after a short distance it enters the yard of a Mr Wilson. Enquiries at the house will ^{enable} one to find the exact field in which the relic stands.

What is left of the castle is just a portion of the north east corner standing on what seems to have been a small bath right in the centre of the field. Portions of the other foundations can be seen earth covered and apparently the building was not very large, but the piece of wall remaining, though very thick, and built of heavy stone, is insufficient for one to determine the type of architecture. Nothing definite is known about its history but it is thought it was one of the castles belonging to Clan O'Toole who were the lords of Wicklow on this western side of the mountains. The building stands on the property of a Mr Moody who has no objections to people visiting it.

Castlequarter Castle.

Here is only the site of ^{where} this castle once stood, as not a stone of the building remains. Turning again at Whitestown Cross the "Glen" road is followed to Donoghmore Crossroads, here the turning to the right is taken across Ballyhubback bridge and a little way beyond a road ^{which} branches to the left should be followed for about a half mile until a newly built cottage can be seen on the left. This is where the castle stood but closer inspection does not reveal anything, not even the traces of the foundations. The only thing which might suggest the exact site is, at the back of the cottage there is a very sharp embankment, the type of thing often associated with a castle. The land belongs to a Mr Lynch who will let anyone interested inspect the site.

Bullam Stones

Apart from the two mentioned in the circle at Castle-ruddey there are some fine examples throughout the area, and take different forms. The first one encountered is at Inack, on the land of a Mr Neill, about a mile north of Donard. One way of locating it is that it is a field on the right hand side of the road in which there are two small rakes. A little south of these the ground cuts away sharply and a large stone is seen half buried in the ledge. This is the stone in question. The upper surface is covered with small

There are two stones the first near a little stream which runs through the fields. Several feet long and about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ wide there are four holes in it. Three are completely circular about 9 inches in diameter and 5 or 6 inches deep while the fourth which apparently is two holes in one takes the shape of a foot this would be about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ft long 6 or 7 inches wide and varies from 4 to 6 inches in depth. Another stone almost similar though not having a foot shaped hole is lying just a few yards away. This has three holes. There is no objection to anyone, who is interested, visiting them free.

Standing Stone

So far as is known there is only one standing stone in the parish and it is located about 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Dunlavin in the townland of Crehlop on the land of a Mr. Caggin. The stone is of granite and is about 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft high 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft thick and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft wide. A little above half way from the ground an oblong hole completely pierces the stone. Its dimensions would be about 6 inches long by 3 inches wide. It might be added that the stone is more or less pointed at the top. An old belief was that it marked the burial site of a Danish Chieftain killed in a battle hereabouts, possibly Slenmama. However there is no confirmation of this. The owner has no objection to people looking at it without charge.

Graveyards

There are quite a number of graveyards in the parish but they do not excite any particular interest. Rathcollagh was the site of an old graveyard. This place is about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south east of Dunlavin and it is in Rathcollagh Demesne the fragmentary remains of the graveyard can be seen. This consists of a couple of broken slabs in the centre of a large field and they do not appear to be particularly interesting. In this townland was a famous Fair Green which had a charter from the days of King Charles, granting his loyal subjects permission to hold a fair there. This expired in the year 1926. On the property of a Mr. Toole there is free access.

Another site of an ancient graveyard is at Kilbreeff about half way between Donard and Donaghmore and adjoining the monastery site at Creghora previously

Antiquities cont.

described. actually it is in the next field. There are no trace of headstone about the site which is on the top of a hillback in the field. It is tradition only which marks the site. Mr Jones is the landowner and has no objection to people inspecting it.

Leitrim Graveyard is situated in the north east corner of Glen Inaal just where the Artillery range is. This burial ground is still in use and on inspection revealed no interesting headstones. One other stone which is lying on a grave attracted my attention. a circular stone disc about 3" in diameter and a couple of inches thick the centre being pierced by a hole of 6 in diameter. The stone is apparently granite of a finer type than commonly found in the district. I have no idea what the stone is or represents. Free access.

Another little graveyard still in use is located at Tober about a mile and a quarter north east of Dunlavin in the shadow of Tober lake previously described. The headstones are in no way interesting. Actually the graveyard is quite modern. Free access.

The graveyard surrounding the ruined Protestant Church at Donard has quite a number of interesting stones. 1st The stone with the two crosses believed to be St Sylvester's grave. Another slab headstone in the centre of the path inside the chapel bears an elaborately carved coat of arms. Several others standing against the church wall at the entrance are worth noticing. Free access

There are two other graveyards in the town of Dunlavin. One surrounding the Protestant church and the other an older one now unused in the main street at the side of the market house. Neither of these have any stones of particular interest but curiously enough a stone in the Protestant church evinces quite a deal of interest. This stone embedded in the vestry wall is what might be termed a commemoration stone, commemorating a gift by an early parishioner for the rebuilding a chancel of the church. This stone was executed in 1681 and the wording is as follows. "Comit Anthony Hathorne out of his pious zeal etc. he gave of gods worship bequeathed 50^l Sterling for the rebuilding of this chancel which was faithfully performed by the pious care of Mr Phillip Hathorne his nephew on the 16th of August 1681. Permission may be obtained from the rector to view this stone.

HISTORIC SITES

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

Hoxey House Demamuck

This little cottage or what remains of it perched on the mountain side at Demamuck on southern side of Glen Inaal is one of the outstanding historic spots in Co Wicklow. It was from this house that Michael Dwyer the heroic insurgent leader made his escape, aided by his friend and comrade Sam McAlister who offered his life to save his leader. During the winter of '98 Dwyer on a night on which snow had fallen sought refuge from Mr Hoxey the owner. Unknown to him he had been seen by an informer, who set out to notify the military. In due course they arrived and surrounded the house and called on Dwyer and his companions to **HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES** *surrender* (Continued on page 5)

(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.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

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

None.

CURIOSITIES

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

None

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

There is a holy well dedicated to St Nicholas of Myra about a quarter of a mile east of the town of Dunlavin. Some years ago there was a pattern to it but it has since been discontinued. There is nothing of particular note about the actual well, but above it, there is a stone slab bearing an episcopal mitre on the left hand corner, the right hand corner is broken off. In the centre are carved the words "Saint Nicholas pray for us." Strangely enough it is not known locally why this well was so dedicated or what connection St Nicholas had with the place. Various cures such as toothache were ascribed to the healing properties of the water. There is a path through the field opposite the parish priest's house leading directly to the well so that there is no difficulty in locating it. Free access

(Signed)

J. P. Patterson

Surveyor.

DATE

14th October 1943

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Talbotstown Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Dunlavin PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE Slaney Nearest point to town (distance) 4 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout 3 to 4 lbs and up to 5 lb

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon..... Sea trout..... Brown trout April to July

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon
Sea trout
Brown trout Wicklow Killee Wickham's Fancy Blue Body Wrens etc.

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

free except on one stretch

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Mr R. Fenton Ballinaclea Donard preserves the portion which runs through his land from practically Sister Bridge Glen of Inaal to about the 5th field beyond Ballinaclea house.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Dunlavin Donard Glen of Inaal

Local Angling Club..... no..... Membership Fee.....

Secretary (and Address).....

SEA ANGLING

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

Dotted lines for notes, with a diagonal blue line drawn across the section.

Kinds of fish to be caught :

Dotted lines for notes, with a diagonal blue line drawn across the section.

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

Dotted lines for notes, with a diagonal blue line drawn across the section.

Bait available locally?..... Fishing tackle?.....

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

Dotted lines for notes.

GOLFING

Name of Club..... *no* No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course :

Dotted lines for notes, with a diagonal blue line drawn across the section.

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course?..... Licensed?.....

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

RACING

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

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

Under which rules?.....

Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds *Kildare Hounds*.....

Harriers.....

Beagles.....

COURSING

Name of Club *Dunlavin West Wicklow Coursing Club* Meeting held annually? *Nov + Feb.*

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:

Excellent shooting over the entire area, which includes grouse and Partridge plentiful. Pheasants are scarce. Wild duck and ordinary rough shooting good.

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

*Artillery Range Glen of Inaal preserved by military authorities
Forestry lands preserved by Forestry Commission
In R. Tenton preserves railed in portion on "Super loaf" mountain*

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

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club *no* Competitions held?.....

ROWING AND SAILING

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

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

GAMES AND RECREATIONS

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

Gaelic Football *not at Dunlavin* *Team at Donard ground at side of village*

Hurling *no*

Handball *at Donard* Handball alley? *at side of Square.*

Soccer *no*

Rugby *no*

Cricket *no*

Hockey *no*

Bowls *no*

Bowling (on public roads) *no*

Lawn Tennis *no* Kinds of courts *—*

Croquet *no*

Billiards *In Social Hall* *1 Table*

Badminton " " " *(suspended except to emergency)*

Table Tennis " " " *1 Table*

Bridge Club *no*

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club *no* 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.

Only the annual Coursing meetings Promoters *Coursing Club.*

No pilgrimages or Patterns now

DATE *23rd Sept '43* (Signed) *J.A. Patterson* Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Talbotstown Lower*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Donard* PARISH *Lansdown* COUNTY *Wicklow*

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE *Donard River* Nearest point to town (distance) *1/2 mile*

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Brown Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout *up to 5 lb*

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout *Wickham's Fancy March brown Quills Dutch etc*

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

entirely free

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Donard & Lansdown

Local Angling Club *none* Membership Fee

Secretary

DATE *14.9.43*

(Signed) *J. H. H. H.*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF *Talbotstown Lower*

TOWN OR VILLAGE *Dunlavin* PARISH *Dunlavin* COUNTY *Wicklow*

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE *"The Stream"* Nearest point to town (distance) *1 1/2 Duncard
3 1/2 Dunlavin*

KINDS OF FISH HELD :

Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout *2-3000*

BEST SEASONS FOR :

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout

SUITABLE FLIES :

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout *Any of the ordinary patterns*

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

Free but very little use

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors :

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day :

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available) :

Dunlavin

Local Angling Club *none* Membership Fee

Secretary

DATE *14:9:43*

(Signed) *J.P. Patton*

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Tibbstown by Lower.

TOWN OR VILLAGE Danard PARISH Dunlavin COUNTY Wicklow

Location and brief description.

Population 150 approx.

The village of Danard is located about 28 miles south west of Dublin 5 miles due east of Dunlavin and 8 miles north of Baltinglass. It is a nice little village nestling at the foot of a range of hills which forms the western foothills of the Wicklow mountains. The village consists of a number of houses and shops clustered around a small green. It is remarkable in having two churches and the remains of two other churches.

Is there a Town Hall? no Location no

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

no

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Pump water and dry latrines.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Dunlavin Distance 5 miles Bus? On main road approx 1 1/2 miles
Public lighting by—Electricity? yes Gas? no

DANCING

Dance hall no Proprietor /

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas no Pictures shown (nights) /

Theatre no Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.) /

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries.....

Private Lending Libraries.....

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church	<i>R.C. Church Donard</i>	Services (Sundays)	<i>9am and 11.30 every 4th Sunday</i>
	<i>C of Ireland Donard</i>		<i>10.30 a.m.</i>
	<i>R.C. Church Davinstown</i>		<i>11.30 S.T.</i>
	<i>C of Ireland Knockanaregan</i>		<i>4.30 pm</i>
	<i>C of Ireland Donaghmore</i>		<i>12 noon</i>

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office..... *the main square*

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

BANKING

Banks..... *none*

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers.....

Photographic Stores.....

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *no*..... 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)

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

none

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

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

2. Pub.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

R. C National School Donard Liffa Duncannon
Protestant School (National) Donaghmore
" " " " Knockanavegan
R. C Nat school Beshin

HOSPITALS

Ballynaglass nearest
.....
.....

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets..... *none*

Weekly market day..... *none* Half-holiday.....

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

.....
..... *none*
.....

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis
..... *none*
.....

Motors (Touring).....
..... *none*
.....

Boats (State type).....
.....
.....

Bicycles
.....
.....

Caravans

Horses
.....
.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *No particular sites* Landowner.....
.....
.....

Local Improvements Committee..... *none*

Secretary

DATE *23rd Sept '13* (Signed) *J.A. Potts*

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)BARONY OF *Malbottown Lower*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Dunlavin* PARISH *Dunlavin* COUNTY *Wicklow*

Location and brief description.

Population *404* (Stat. Abstr. Sept. 1949)

The town of Dunlavin is located 30 miles south west of Dublin, 10 miles north of Ballynasc and 12 miles due south from Naas. It is probably the second town of West Wicklow. It is constructed in the shape of the letter "T" the leg forming the principal street. The first item which strikes the visitor is the "Town Hall" whose unusual architecture is attractive. The two wide, clean well kept streets give the town a pleasing appearance.

Is there a Town Hall? *Yes* Location *Centre of Main St.*

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

none

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Good water supply and sewerage system both well provided.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station *Dunlavin* Distance *at end of main road* Bus? *No main road 4 miles away nearest*
Public lighting by—Electricity? *Yes* Gas? *No*

DANCING

Dance hall *Smal Hall* Proprietor *Owned by a committee Mr John Cunningham is the principal*

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas *No regular cinema but pictures shown in Smal Hall* Pictures shown *usually Monday and ~~Friday~~ Wednesday nights* (nights)

Theatre *No* Kind of shows *No*
(Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries..... *no*

Private Lending Libraries..... *Miss Doyle Post office Main St*

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church *R.C. Church Dunlavin* Services (Sundays) *8.30 & 11.30*

R.C. Church

Church of Ireland *11.30 am*

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office..... *Main Street*

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

BANKING

Banks..... *Windsor & Leinster Bank*

branch of Water Bank open wed & Sat

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers

Photographic Stores..... *Mr O'Higgins Chemist Main St*

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?..... *no* Location.....

Public Baths?..... *no* Location.....

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs *C. Y. M. S. Juval Hall.*

Cultural Societies *no.*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *none.*

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

none

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

none

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Town Hall is the only building which boasts a distinct type of Architecture. It is a most imposing structure (though now decaying rapidly owing to neglect) and is done in style which I believe is comparatively rare in this country. Built entirely of cut stone, the grooved domed roof is also of stone. In this tower until comparatively recent times was the famous "Bell of Kilkenny" which has been restored to the Black Abbey Kilkenny.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Catholic & Protestant National Schools Dunlavin
branch of Technical Schools Dunlavin

HOSPITALS

Balthglass nearest

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets *1st Tuesday of each month*

Weekly market day *none* Half-holiday *Thursday*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

A Galbourn main St.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *Mr Galbourn Mr Fisher main St
Mr Thomas market Sq.*

Motors (Touring) *as above*

Boats (State type) */*

Bicycles */*

Caravans

Horses */*

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *no particular sites* Landowner

Local Improvements Committee *no*

Secretary

DATE *23rd Sept '43* (Signed) *J.P. Patton*

