

Outstanding Scenery found in Boystawn Parish

Boystown parish better known by its local name Valleymount though but a short twenty miles from the city of Dublin transports the visitor to a land of mountains, lakes and valleys reminiscent of the famed beauty of Killarney, and may yet when better known and developed, be deemed another "Heaven's Reflex".

This area to those who knew it was long renowned for its rugged beauty, but it was only a few years ago, that the formation of the huge lakes for the Hydro Electric scheme, enhanced that natural beauty a thousand fold.

The Parish covers a very large area which is a succession of mountains and valleys, and quite a number of these valleys have been submerged by the scheme and form the present lovely lakes. An unusual effect, achieved by these man-made lakes, is that the mountains rise straight and sheer ^{from} ~~out~~ of the water's edge.

General Outlines

The parish is more or less oblong in shape and from its starting point at Blessington it runs south east for over twenty miles. It is divided into two distinct types of country. The northern half holds the lakes, peninsulas and lower mountains, the remainder embraces the high rugged mountains, treeless and smooth in some cases. Stark and rocky in others, as they pile high one above the other in a vast confusion of peaks, bounded below them wind the silent valleys as they penetrate into the heart of Wicklow's eternal fortress.

Almost in the centre of the parish on a peninsula in the larger lake lies the tiny village of Valleymount, while but a mile or so across the lake Ballyknockan another village is perched on the lip of Moanbane mountain (2313) looking as if at any moment it would fall off and be lost in the blue depths below.

Lucan the other tiny village of the parish consisting of a church, school and a few houses, is on the side of the mountains or rather hills which form the northern shore of the lake, and though only three or four miles as the crow flies, from Valleymount, eight or nine miles ^{over}

have to be traversed before it can be reached, ² by going round through Blessington and Oldcourt. The shorter route which is via Ballyknockan is in such a deplorable condition that the greater part of the journey would have to be walked.

To give the principal views in order of merit would be rather an impossibility as the entire parish abounds with outstandingly beautiful scenes of different types, one being equally as good as the other, and any of them sufficiently lovely to fill with wonder and delight, even the most fastidious.

Commencing a journey around the parish, Blessington is left behind and the main road, which goes to Baltinglass is followed, as far as the junction with the new concrete ^{road} which takes one to Burgage. ~~at~~ A short distance from the main road the new bridge is reached and the first of the outstanding views encountered. Facing south the lake stretches from under one's feet to Paula phuca over three miles away where the huge concrete dam, shining in the sunlight can just be seen. To the left hand side the ground rises a couple of hundred feet above the bridge and runs south towards Humphreptown hill which is exactly opposite, and forms a large peninsula which divides the lake into two parts. This peninsula is well wooded as is Humphreptown hill which running at right angles to it encloses the lake to the south and joins up ~~at~~ with the great dam. This luxuriant foliage lends just that exact amount of colour to perfect the scene. To the west the ridge of low green hills which divide the counties of Wicklow and Kildare run parallel with the lake and they are lost to sight behind the woods of Russborough Demesne.

Looking to the north the scene is very different. The peninsula now on the right extends but a couple of hundred yards beyond the bridge, and then the two great ~~great~~ arms of the lake unite and run north between ever narrowing banks until it is lost to the view. Blessington can be seen high above the water on the western bank, while the smooth green slopes of Oldcourt hill provide a contrast to the red, brown and grey tones of the mountains in the background.

Following the road which now swings around the end of the peninsula, the lake can be seen stretching an even greater distance, but this is soon lost as the road curves sharply to Ballyboys and here almost immediately another glorious view of lake and mountain is presented.

From this point the larger arm of the lake can be seen to advantage. The narrow neck of water at the beginning of this part of the lake, now widens to quite a tremendous extent at least it must be three miles wide, right across to the foot of Moanbane mountain.

To the left the brilliant green slopes of the Lacaun hills then crest but faintly broken swing in a semicircle to meet the bold Moanbane (2312) whose steep sides drop straight below the glistening waters of the lake.

This mountain which is directly opposite rises almost in the shape of a gigantic pyramid, its sides looking as if polished are grey green, with red in places but above all covered with that brackish brown colour so typical of mountain scenery. Here the first glimpse of Ballyknockan village is caught, looking as it were, so ridiculous setting on the mountain side as if trying to keep its feet off of the water.

In the middle distance to the right can be seen a second bridge stretching across to grasp the slender extremity of the Valleymount peninsula, while far beyond to the south the mountains rear themselves as guardians of this lonely hidden lakeland.

The road now glides down to the level of the water and as the bridge is reached, the scene ^{again} has greatly changed. The more attractive view is that looking northwards, as now on the right Moanbane rises + would appear even higher, while the dizzy perched Ballyknockan looks as if one could pick it off with thumbs and forefingers. Directly in front where the Lacaun hills join Moanbane, they form a quiet corner, whose thin sides looking as smooth as the great expanse of placid shining water on which they are viewed. To the left the tree clad sides of the larger peninsula, just left, add that touch of contrast sufficient to ~~complete~~ the picture.

Soon the little village of Valleymount is reached and one is attracted by the quaint oddly decorated white Chapel which is the dominant structure.

Through the village the road winds toward the big mountain peaks now appreciably nearer. Some quarter of a mile further on the branch road to Ballykrockan is met, but continuing the straight road to Glenbride the ground rises quickly and after a time as the summit of the hill is reached one must perchance halt and look back on the unforgettable panorama below.

Far beneath lies the greater lake stretching mile after mile before being apparently lost in the hills to the north. Into this juts the long green peninsula of Valleymount looking as if it might be submerged at any moment. On the right from high above, Moanbane drops steeply into the shining water, beyond this and running at right angles to it the Dacan hills from the northern shores of the lake. On the western side it is enclosed by the larger peninsulas dividing the lakes arms and it is from here that the tree studded slopes, sweeping back towards the mountains, can be fully appreciated.

To the left a completely new vista opens up. Here the ground rises from the level of the lake and forms a large barren valley sweeping away to the surrounding mountains. The bed of the valley is a sea of brown, with here and there a lighter patch while the black turf stacks scattered throughout stand out sharply.

Of the encircling mountains, Church mountain is most easily recognisable and then in order west to east are Conagh mountain, ⁽¹⁷⁵⁰⁾ Table mountain, ⁽²³⁰²⁾ Canning mountain and Tonelagee ⁽²³⁰⁴⁾ whose summit can barely be seen. Continuing the journey over the crest of the hill the road can be seen twisting down into the valley of Glenbride, one of Wexfords better known beauty spots. As the encircling mountains draw ever nearer the brown valley becomes more fertile and dons a more smiling countenance. Gone is the dull brown and black as the green mantle of pasture lands replace the sombre bogland.

To the left Moanbane gives place to Mullaghcleanna ⁽²⁶¹⁵⁾ and as this mountain merges with Barnacullen ⁽²³⁰⁷⁾ beyond, the two ranges of mountains quickly converge and meet. Here at the junction of these lofty peaks "Kings River" can

be seen like, a silken thread, winding from its birthplace, down thro' the valley, growing ever, before being lost in the vastness of the lake.

Following the road to the end of the valley the parish boundary is approached. From here the road winds through the well-known "Wicklow Gap" and on to Glenmalough. Retracing our steps the reverse view of the mountains and valley is equally attractive.

Returning almost to Valleymount the Ballyknockan road is taken. From here yet another variation of scenery opens up. It will be soon observed that this part of the parish is a little world of granite everywhere!! the road the walls, the houses, the stones and rocks which abound are all granite, grey and hard reflecting the sunlight little wonder is it that Ballyknockan is famous for this its only product.

Looking down on the lake, as the village is reached, Valleymount can be seen astride its narrow foundation curving into the lake and completed by the bridge to Humphreystown. To the left again in the distance are the mountains beyond Glenbridge while directly opposite Humphreystown hill merges into the tree clad Bungage peninsula. Again it is to the north that the scenery is most engaging. Below is seen the vast expanse of water forming as it were a colossal basin with a narrow outlet in the northwest corner, beyond this it winds and twists like a slow serpent, before it turns from sight beyond Blessington. Moanbane towering high above all, the Lacaun hills looking smaller, the woodland opposite and the distant hills, and the waters lapping below all seem different yet ever more attractive.

In to Lacaun and here yet another feast of beauty awaits. Standing high above the waters of the lake one is thrilled again by this further offering. To the left Moanbane ~~was~~ majestic as ever rises above its challenging neighbours; in the centre the vast waters, with Valleymount now indiscernable as a peninsula; on the right the now oft described Humphreystown and Bungage beyond which is seen the brown valley acting as a dark foot-note to the encircling mountains.

To complete the circuit of the parish one must continue up over Woodend hill and see this new aspect of the lakes.

From this vantage point the three branches of the lake can be seen, with its peninsulas and promontories

Spanned by its bridges and backed by its mountains. Down on into Old Court from whence one can see quite near the flat red brown slopes of the twin peaks of Seefin and SCAFINGAR which constitute the northern bastion of Wicklow's lovely territory. Surely too with a sigh one must turn from this scenic Paradise hidden in the heart of the "Garden of Ireland".

Poulaphouca

Though not actually portion of this parish, and yet so closely allied to it, one needs must include Poulaphouca and Humpreystown with the attractions of Valleymount ~~point~~ To Poulaphouca, long famed for its spectacular waterfall, is added a modern note in the great concrete dam, through which the harnessed waters of the lake find a well controlled outlet.

This huge structure which encloses the end of a deep ravine is a wonderful feat of engineering. Through its sluice gates the waters pour in great jets to the rocks below and rush at terrific speed to nature's counterpart "The waterfall" some few hundred yards beyond.

This waterfall though not extraordinarily large is very beautiful. The waters cascading down in a foaming torrent beneath the fine Gothic arched bridge, crash and tumble on to the rocks one hundred and fifty feet below. The swirling waters now rush headlong between its towering, densely tree covered banks to the great power station hidden deep down at the bottom of the chasm, and then widens out to assume more Liffey like proportions and continue its long journey to the sea.

Humpreystown Hill

This hill which overlooks the waterfall provides some of the most excellent views in this ~~home~~ treasurehouse of nature. Not more than a couple of hundred feet in height, it is so placed that, after completing the easy ascent, a glorious panorama embracing both lakes and peninsula lies beneath.

Looking to the north, the first thing to attract attention is the great dividing peninsula with its heavy foliage, flanked on either side by the shining waters of the lakes.

On the left hand side the narrower lake twists and turns from Poulaphouca, beneath Burridge bridge on past Blessington to where it terminates in the shadow of Seefin mountain. Directly at the western edge of this lake are the low green hills which divide the Counties of Wicklow and Kildare, looking smooth and round and increasing in extent as they

traverses north. Standing out most notably on the side of one of these hills not far from the water's edge is the beautiful "Karsborough" demesne with the great house looking stately and white in the sunshine.

The hills at their southern extremity are quite low and beyond them can be seen the vast plains of Kildare, Meath, Westmeath etc, stretching like a gigantic quilt, apparently end less, before it slips beyond the horizon.

Over to the right the second lake again looks like a huge basin encompassed by the mountains; with Moanbane looking more lordly than ever, and Valleymount's arm still tightly grasping the slender white bridge. South of this bridge the remainder of the lake is seen, with here and there near the edge, a tree breaking the surface as if to remind one of its recent origin.

Looking away to the south east, the brown bogland which starts at this hill goes on and on between the converging mountains and before long dissolves into the valley of Glenbride. { Note - The foregoing are the principal and easily accessible views in the district but many more may be had from different points such as the hilltops etc.

Roads

The road from Blessington to Lacan via the new bridge is quite good and suitable for any kind of travel as also is the second road to Valleymount via Bungage but from Lacan to Ballyknockan and on into Valleymount that way the road surface is dreadful. The only means of traversing it is by walking.

Beyond Valleymount onto Glenbride again for the most part the road must be walked. The Granabeg road is also very bad but having crossed the hill at Togher there is some improvement toward the Wicklow Gap.

The other roads round Paula Phuca and that from St. John's Pheystown to Paula Phuca are quite respectable. The main road Blessington to Baltinglass is excellent.

Antiquities - Continued

In the new graveyard near Blessington are two stone crosses. The larger is about sixteen or seventeen feet high the arms would probably stretch about eight feet in width and depth it is a couple of feet each way.

8

and has been apparently carved out of solid stone blocks. It is preserved by the Board of Works but they are unable to supply any information regarding it except that it was transferred there from the old graveyard at Bourgane prior to the formation of the lakes.

The second stone cross is not nearly so tall being but around 6' to 7'. The span of the arms about 8ft and it rests on a pedestal. Again it is a couple of feet wide and about 18" thick. This has been patched up in a number places where seemingly it was broken. It is not in the care of the Board of Works and again no information regarding it is available. The graveyard is just beyond the village of Blessington to the southeast and there is free access.

Russborough House cont.

with the more famous objects. The well wooded demesne covers some six hundred acres and includes well kept attractive gardens. These however are not open to the public.

The architecture is Classical and modelled on the principle of Palladio. Built by Lord Wicklow circa 1720 it is known to be one of the best examples of the Georgian Period of building in Ireland.

Its creator and designer was Richard Castle who also won repute for his building of the "Bank of Ireland" College Green Dublin which was then the Parliament House. It is said that the influence of Robert Adams was felt by the designer and incorporated in many of the designs. The entire place is strictly preserved and permission will not be granted ~~other~~ for visiting either the house or grounds.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Talbot's Town Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Vallogeant PARISH Ballytown COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Ballytown is located in the north west corner of Co Wicklow. Commencing at the village of Blessington it runs for the most part in a south easterly direction. It is bounded to the north by Blessington parish and to the south and west by the parish of Ballymore East which though a Kildare parish comes quite a long way into Co Wicklow. To the east it embraces the high peaks and wild valleys which form the very heart of Wicklow's mountain wilderness.

GEOLOGY

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

The same features which prevail throughout the rest of Co Wicklow apply here also, that of the range of high treeless, smooth, granite peaks interspersed with lovely quiet valleys sparsely inhabited which reminds one more of the wilder parts of Kerry and Donegal than the 'Garden of Ireland' of which it is part. The dried up river bed at Paula Phuca apparently caused by the diversion of a river MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES is also a source interested.

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?

Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

The outstanding house in this part of Co Wicklow is "Russborough House" home of Capt Daly about three miles south of Blessington. This house is reckoned to be one of the most delightful in Ireland. Situated now almost on the western edge of the great Paula Phuca lake and visible from the main Blessington-Ballyglass road it will immediately attract the attention of passers-by. The house consists of a centre block, three storeys high, and four pavilions strong together by colonnades of Ionic Order. Beneath the colonnades in twelve niches stand statues of the Pagan deities, Hercules, Venus, Jupiter, Ceres Diana &c, each one a fine example of the sculptor's art. Beautiful though the exterior is, it is for the interior decoration the house is most famous. Outstanding examples of Rococo and Baroque work abound, while such treasures as mantelpieces by Bossey and others of lasting fame, fitly adorn this lovely home. There is no exceptional library or art gallery but the furnishings &c, are quite in keeping.

ANTIQUITIES

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

Owing to the fact that the greater part of this parish has been submerged, little in the way of antiquities can be recorded.

The only moat located is at Buller hill just across the lake from Blessington. It is not a very fine example being rather small. Situated on high ground overlooking the lake it rises to but a mere seventeen or eighteen feet in height and about thirty feet in diameter at the top. It is built entirely of earth, and gives the impression that at one time excavations of some kind were carried on. The owner has no objection to anyone visiting it.

The remains of a castle can be seen in the lake at Burgoe. Not far from the edge the little piece of land on which it sits rises just above the level of the water. However it is not possible to approach it as a stretch of water separates it from the mainland. Nothing definite is known about it, but it was apparently one of the castles which were erected near the boundary of the pale as a defence against the incursions of the Wicklow chieftains. In the property owned by the E.S.B. there is no access.

Old court, across the lake from Blessington and about a mile and a half to the north brings one to the site of an old church. It is not known when it was in use but little remains of it. Portions of the walls are standing but these are greatly overgrown and no particular regarding the type of architecture are discernable. It is approximately thirty three feet long by eighteen feet wide and was apparently rather crudely built with large blocks of stone. Its capacity must have been very small. It is located on the property of a Mrs. Nealy of Oldcourt and she quite willing that visitors may inspect it and will most probably assist them.

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

HISTORIC SITES

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

none

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

*(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities.
Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished
personalities.*

none

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.

The only objects of this type are some old headstones in Lagan graveyard, and it is merely the peculiar spelling and incorrect phraseology which is a small source of amusement.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

None

(Signed)

H. Patkar

Surveyor.

DATE.....

27th Oct '43

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

Walthamstow Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE

Valleymount

PARISH

Baptist

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 Poulaphouca Lake Nearest point to town (distance) adjoining Blessington

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout 1 to 3 lbs but they are up to 4 to 7 lbs quite often

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout April to September June

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout Butcher, very brown, large orange general and various large fish. This is one of the best lakes in Ireland for State if angling is—"entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc. spooning bait.

[Never seen in minnow or spoon bait for large trout.]

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Entire lakes are preserved by the Electricity Supply Board: Upper Mount St Dublin.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

Electricity Supply Board 7/- per day 4/- after 4 pm. tickets to be had at Powers Hotel main St Blessington and Balfes Restaurant main St Blessington.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Blessington Dublin (20 miles and adequate bus service)

Local Angling Club No Membership Fee £1

Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

GENERAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Brief notes on fishing grounds:

SPOILS AND GAMES

SEA ANGLING

Kinds of fish to be caught:

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

Bait available locally? Fishing tackle?

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

GOLFING

Name of Club..... No. of holes.....

Situation and brief description of course:

Name of Professional.....

Is there a clubhouse on course? Licensed?

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

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.....

Harriers.....

Beagles.....

COURSING

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

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company.....

Races on (nights).....

SHOOTING

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

The entire parish being mountainous there is quite a deal of grouse shooting, partridge is fairly plentiful and the duck shooting around the edge of the lakes is good. Practically the entire parish is preserved.

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

A great portion of the land is preserved by Lord Waterford. ~~Canaghmore~~ Waterford and nearly all the rest by ~~the~~ ^{Galou} Darley who lives above Kilbride and does not let the shooting.

Shooting Club..... Secy. -

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club..... Competitions held?

ROWING AND SAILING

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

no

* Lord Waterford agent who has charge of the lettings is Capt J. V. Adams Ballyroe Tallow Co. Cork.

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	Gaelic Football Club	but no particular field.
Hurling	no	
Handball	no	Handball alley?
Soccer	no	
Rugby	no	
Cricket	no	
Hockey	no	
Bowls	no	
Bowling (on public roads)	no	
Lawn Tennis	no	Kinds of courts
Croquet	no	
Billiards	no	
Badminton	no	
Table Tennis	no	
Bridge Club	no	
Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)	no	

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.

..... *none* Promoters.....

DATE *20th Oct '43*

(Signed) *J. J. Patterson*
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Talbotstown Lower

TOWN OR VILLAGE Valleymount PARISH Dysert COUNTY Wicklow

ANGLING (Fresh water)

RIVER OR LAKE Kings River Nearest point to town (distance) 3 miles

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout 4 to 8 lb

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout May to early Sept.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon
Sea trout
Brown trout Wicklow killer Wicklow Dacey Quill etc

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

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

Generally speaking the whole river is preserved by
Lord Waterford and permission should be obtained
from Capt J. V. Adam Ballynac Tullow Co. Carlow his agent

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

none

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Hessington & Dublin

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

(Signed)

J. A. Patten

Surveyor.

DATE 20th Oct 43

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY**AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)**BARONY OF Talbot's Town LowerTOWN OR VILLAGE Valleymount PARISH Ballylawn COUNTY WicklowLocation and brief description. Population 50 approx.

This tiny village consisting of a church and seven or eight houses with the school is situated on a peninsula which juts into the huge lake which is part of the Pentaphrea Hydro-Electric Scheme. It is about seven miles south of Blessington and twenty six or seven south west of Dublin. It is well in toward the heart of the Wicklow mountains on the direct route from Blessington to Glenmalough via the Wicklow Gap.

Is there a Town Hall? No Location.....

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description :

None

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage :

No water or sewerage scheme**PUBLIC SERVICES**Nearest station ? Distance Bus ? BlessingtonPublic lighting by—Electricity? no 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 no

Private Lending Libraries no

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church Valleyland R.C. Church services (Sundays) 8 and 11 am old time
Laceen R.C. Church 8 + 10.30 " "

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Beside Chapel & School house

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

BANKING

Banks no

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers no

Photographic Stores no

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? no Location

Public Baths? Location

Note swimming can be had in the lake.

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs..... *none*

Cultural Societies..... *none*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries..... *Agriculture Turf-making Ballyknockan
Granite Quarries (suspended owing to emergency)*

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

No

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description ; inscription to be quoted)

none

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

none

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

National School..... *Villyanibar
Granabeg
Lacan*

HOSPITALS

Dublin nearest

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

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

Weekly market day..... *no* Half-holiday..... *no*

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

none

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis..... *none*

Motors (Touring)..... *"*

Boats (State type)..... *Boats for fishing can be hired at Lower Hotel Slane gal.*

Bicycles..... *2s*

Caravans..... *no*

Horses.....

CAMPING SITES (At principal holiday resorts)

Location..... *none* Landowner.....

Local Improvements Committee..... *none*

Secretary

DATE *20th Oct '43*

(Signed) *J. P. Gilligan*

Surveyor.

Juverna Press, Ltd., Dublin.

ACCOMMODATION

PARISH

*Sopotom*BARONY *Telok Kurau Leseh* COUNTY *Wicklow*TOWN OR VILLAGE *Valleywood*

HOTELS	NUMBER OF			LICENSED	REMARKS	RESTAURANTS AND CAFÉS
	Guest Bedrooms	Baths	Lav. (state kind)			
<i>Louisa Shores Hotel</i>	3	1	<i>1/2 bath</i>	3	Yes	<i>not very well kept - poorly furnished. The Senator Palaphine has Café. Kdy.</i>
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>						
<i>Yank Health Battloep</i>	1 dormitory	new women	1 common room and kitchen		<i>The Yello Café is just above waterfall on side Main Road. Clean etc.</i>	

DATE *26 Oct '03*

(Additional Forms to be used if necessary)

(Signed) *J. P. Mallon*
Surveyor.