

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Natural Features, Antiquities,
Historic Associations, etc.

Barony of Ballinacor

Town or Village Rathdrum Parish Rathdrum County Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

There are innumerable really beautiful views in the vicinity so it is difficult to single out the best ones. In mentioning those most easily obtained one probably finds the solution. The "Vale of Clara" as seen from the Rathdrum road is exceedingly beautiful. The valley from Ballinaclash to the "Meetings" is very lovely when viewed either from Whaley Abbey or from the Dublin road. The valley after Avonmore from Rathdrum to the "Meetings" is well worth looking at particularly if one can include a visit to the Forestry Commissions estate at Avondale. For equally beautiful scenery but more difficult to get at, the trip from Knockrath over the mountains to Greenane will well repay the tourist for the difficulty in obtaining it.

GEOLOGY

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

The terrain in this parish is extremely mountainous in fact throughout the whole area it would be difficult to locate a couple of hundred yards of level ground. Most of the hills are well tree-covered which enhance the general appearance. I think it can be fairly safely assumed that the unevenness of the land is probably due to glacier action. The predominant rocks of Co. Wicklow are the far fa med pink and grey granites, rocks which are so hard and weather resisting, that they have produced the jagged outlines of the typical Wicklow mountain scenery.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

Of Imposing Character

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

Nothing of this type in the area.

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.

Whaley Abbey. Bahana Whaley. Kilkini Monastery.

In 1658 Oliver Cromwell wrote to his son, Harry, the Lord Protector of Ireland commanding to his care, his cousin Whaley. He thereby established in this country a rapacious adventurer whose race continued with all its excesses down to 1800 when the last of them died in extreme poverty. Harry the "Protector" granted to Whaley his relative by marriage great tracts of land in Wicklow and other counties and accordingly the place spoken of became known as Bahana Whaley ~~or~~ Whaley Abbey. One member of this family Richard Chapell Whaley M.P. for Co. Wicklow 1747 - 1760 known as "Burn Chapel Whaley" owing to the number of Catholic Chapelries which he destroyed as "Commissioner of the Peace"!!! was a vicious persecutor of the Papish Eccleastical priests. Son of this man was Thomas Whaley better known as "Buck" Whaley the dissolute roue of the late 18th century in Dublin. The stories of his gambling and fast living are related even to the present time his associations with the "Hell Fire Club" in the Dublin mountains, his dogs and race-horses, his racecourse in the grounds of Whaley Abbey, and, most famous of all, his wager to journey to Jerusalem, play handball against its walls and return inside two years, during the height of the Napoleonic wars, a feat which he accomplished thereby winning as a result £16,000. This man who inherited £60,000 in money and an income of £7,000 p.a., in the course of a few years dissipated a fortune of £400,000 and died penniless as the last of the Whaleys.

Bahana ("The place of the Birch trees") Whaley, overlooking the beautiful Vale of Avoca is an enchanting spot and little is it to be wondered that it was chosen by "Cian" a relative of Caoimhghim of Gleann Da Loca (St. Kevin) as a site for a monastery. There is a good deal of controversy as to who exactly "Cian" was. According to Canon O'Hanlon in his lives of Irish Saints she was a virgin and possibly a sister of St. Kevin. Rev. M.V. Ronan in his investigations inclines to the belief of a male founder and determines Cian or Coemhan the brother of St. Kevin. The abbey, which apparently stood somewhere close to the present graveyard, but of which there is now no trace, was in use until approximately the 11th century at which time many of the Celtic Monasteries closed down. The church is believed to have been used by the people and was mentioned as one of the churches of the Dublin Diocese in 1275. It is thought that it was used up to the late 16th century and then fell into disuse. In the centre of the graveyard is the ruin of a church, the bare outline of the foundations being visible. Whether or not this was the original church it is difficult to say, but it may be as it is apparently in disuse for a very long period. In the graveyard are a number of XVIII Century headstones which may be interesting. There is free access to the graveyard etc. The house of Whaley Abbey is occupied but the owner is of the opinion that only a very small portion of it is the original building as it has been many times renovated since the time of the Whaleys. He is a Mr. Martin by name and he has no objection to genuinely interested people visiting the house.

In the field opposite the house, which was once the racecourse can be seen the broken-down monument which once stood there. Regarding the exact purpose of this it is obscure but is said to have been erected in honour of King William. The location of Whaley Abbey is to the left of the Aughrim - Ballinaclash road, one mile south of Ballinaclash. It also overlooks the "Meetings" and the village of Ballinaclash, better known as "Clash". There remains a legend around Avoca, though not now generally known and it is as follows:-

"Cian the brother of St. Kevin was sent by him to mind sheep one day and he was instructed to give them his whole attention but unfortunately he became distracted by a beautiful deer. Overcome with remorse he confessed his fault, Kevin being very austere directed him for penance, to walk backwards with his face towards Glendalough along the Avonmore River holding a withered holly branch and continue until it should turn green again. At the "Meetings of the Waters" his holly became miraculously green again and at the nearby Bahana he established his monastery. Until recent years the "May-hole" at the "Meetings" was bathed in for its curative properties.

Rathdrum The town of Rathdrum is situated high on a prominence overlooking the Avonmoa river and it is believed that at one time a large and important Rath was located here from which the town takes its name. There is at the present time no trace whatever of this rath and no remnant of antiquity to link the town with the past.

Site of Abbey or Monastery

As far as can be gathered this old monastery stood in the townland of Ballinabarney on the site now occupied by the house of a Mrs. Moran. Not a stone of the original building remains apparently, and the only thing that could be learned about it was that it was called St. Mary's Abbey. What community peopled it is also unknown. The most convenient way to locate the site is to proceed to Greenane bridge on the Ballinaclash - Glenmalure road, and enquire in Byrne's licensed house situated there to point out the exact spot. The intending visitor could either traverse the fields which would be infinitely shorter or go around the road for some couple of miles. Mrs. Moran has no objection to people visiting site. She herself does not know anything of its history being a newcomer.

Kilcommon Graveyard

This old graveyard is situated about two miles north of the town of Rathdrum overlooking the main Rathdrum - Dublin road. Right of way up to it is at the house of Mr. Martin, Bahana Rathdrum. Not in the care of public works and free access.

Lines to the memory of a cousin by Michael Lawlor on a plaque on the wall or gable of Kilcommon old church:

"In this lone corner by this sacred wall,
Where dews of Heaven on ivy festoons fall
Lie the remains all mouldering into dust
Of one whose virtue neck was soiled with rust
The noblest specimen of womankind
That 'eer blew her breath on wind
She loved the good and always shunned the wrong
Her angel spirit now sings Heavens song."

Kilcommon is situated in the townland of Bahana on top of a steep hill about the distance described above. Within the graveyard are the remains of an old chapel consisting chiefly of the north gable, though it is badly broken down, and an outline of the foundations of the church. The building was 40ft x 21ft and was built of crude stones of various sizes. In the existing gable standing is the remains of a window with deep inwards splay; which is considerably wider and larger on the inside than on the outside; the measurements are approx. $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft inside and $3\frac{1}{2}$ x 8" on the outside. It is built like the embrasure windows in a castle. The stones forming the coping or edging stones on the outside are of sandstone and the top stone is missing, it cannot be ascertained what form of architecture was revealed by the arching. The wall is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick. Regarding its history, little is definitely known. According to Fr. M. Ronan the church was being used in 1531. This was apparently not the church founded by St. Coman or Colman, but probably stood on the site of the original church. Regarding the origin here again Antiquarians are controversial. Fr. Ronan in writing on its founder concluded that it was founded by a St. Colman the word "Common" being a corruption of Colman. According to a Fr. Galvin late P.P. Rathdrum St. Kevin had a brother Colmanus 448. These men are also claimed as being the founders of Kilcommon. "Common" being held as being a corruption of any of these names. Abbot of Ardensis also Caemhan another brother: which of these, if any, founded the institution is a matter for conjecture, nor does it materially affect the case that it was the cell or church of one of the early disciples of our patron saint. In the graveyard are some 18th Century headstones which may be of interest. The one claiming most notice is that to a Rev. Bryan Byrne 1776. Its quaint but interesting carving is unusual as it depicts,

besides the Crucifixion, a Roman soldier with a lance, others on horseback, figures in the background and the representation of a church.

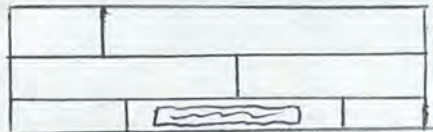
"Stump of the Castle"

This is exactly what the name implies, a stump of a castle and is situated high on the side of a hill or mountain in the townland of that name, exactly opposite the town of Rathdrum to the North of Rathdrum and approximately 2 to 2½ miles from that town.

The "stump" consists now of about half of what was probably a corner tower and is for the most part heavily ivy covered. The structure is of no very early date being of large stones similar to those of 15th and 16th century buildings. Inside it one finds a narrow passage running 8 - 10 feet and ending in a circular little room with a narrow slit - like window and corbelled roof. The ceiling is of overlapping stone slabs forming a very shallow dome. The outlines of the entire building are no longer traceable though it is believed to have been quite large. It is owned by a Mr. Cahill who has no objection to people visiting it. Unfortunately there appears to be no record of who built it or at what time and, apparently, it is quite a long time in disuse, and as nothing in this county prior to 1798 seems to be known locally the only reference may be found in the Journal of Soc. of Antiquities Vol. 63 and Vol. 66 (1933 - 1936) on Castles in Wicklow by Dist. Justice Price.

Castle at Knockrath

High up on the hillside on the southern side of the Vale of Clara is found the remains of an old castle. Situated about 3 miles west of Rathdrum and ¾ of a mile to the left of the Rathdrum Glendalough road. It is located by going up the road which commences at the house of Mr. Sainsbury R.C.V.S. and following this road until the woods are past then on looking up to the left can be seen the castle remains. At the present time it consists chiefly of the remnants of walls which have become more or less covered with soil and grass and around are innumerable heaps of stones which probably belonged to the building these stones are undressed. The plan of the Castle is rectangular being about approx. 200ft x 150ft. The various apartments or yards whichever they may have been can be discerned. On the southern side stands the remains of an old stone house probably of a much later date. This is comprised of the gables and side wall having being built with the stones of the original castle. A rough sketch of the foundations would be like the following:-



The land is owned by a Mr. Cullen and there is no difficulty about viewing it. Unable to find out anything about its history locally. Ref. Journal Royal Soc. of Antiquities Ireland Vol. 63 and Vol. 66, these may possibly allude to it.

HISTORIC SITES

In the Vale of Clara high up on the northern slope above the little chapel is a house which was once owned by Henry Grattan of Irish Parliamentary fame. Here he lived at certain times but it is more probable that it was used as a kind of shooting lodge for him. An ordinary unimposing two storey stone building it is at present owned by a Mr. Healy. Anyone wishing to visit it may do so. To locate it one must go to Clara on the Rathdrum - Glendalough road, go down to the chapel and up the other side, the house is easily visible facing down. It might be remarked that the climbing to this house, both ways, is very heavy.

The Flannell Hall Rathdrum

Nowadays this old hall is used as a courthouse for petty sessions but originally it was built as a kind of market hall where flannel was traded. Subsequently it was used as a jail and during troubled times insurgents and others, having been apprehended and executed their heads were impaled on spikes outside of it. It is situated on top of the hill at the southern side of the town of Rathdrum and can be easily seen. Owned by the Coolan estate (Lord Fitzwilliam).

The Vale of Clara is one, or it should be said the only historic site around this district. It cannot even claim much prominence in that line except that it was around this lovely valley that Michael Dwyer and some of his companions found refuge during their flight after being nearly captured at Danenamuck in various holes and corners throughout this valley they hid themselves while the search was going on, and eventually escaped to safer parts of the county.

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.

Avondale House

This beautiful house is situated in an extensive demesne owned by the Forestry Commissioner or Department about 2 miles east of the town of Rathdrum. Formerly it was the habitat of Charles Stewart Parnell. The house is a 2 storey building rather long and the exterior is often "pebbledashed". The front being well positioned offers a pleasing aspect. Built in 1779 by a Colonel Hayes who was an expert on Afforestation he was also a Colonel in the Irish Volunteers. On his demise he willed the house to Parnell. Apart from a picture there are no relics of Parnell. The house itself has some very interesting features. First on entering one is arrested by the hall which is comprised of two storeys and has a balcony high up facing the door. This is I believe Italian style and possibly Renaissance. The interior woodwork and ceiling etc. are of the same period. Even the doors are well worth attention. In an adjoining room one is enchanted to find a beautiful mantelpiece by Bossy. Wall ornamentation in another room is worthy of note but I fear that as it is a school for forestry students these treasures do not get the care they deserve. Permission to visit the house and grounds has to be obtained from the Forestry Department, 88, Merrion Square.

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.

Nothing of this type located in this district.

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.

"Lovers Leap" This is a spot in the grounds of the Forestry Department at Avondale house. It consists of a rock prominence overlooking the river Avonmore and making a sheer drop of up to a couple of hundred feet. The visitor has a most beautiful view from this spot. The old legend so often come by of the unhappy lovers leaping from such a place applies in this instance also. It is

located by taking the little road to the left immediately on entering the gate at the gatehouse and as one traverses this route the railing can be seen on the left hand side less than a quarter mile from the gate. It may be worth mentioning here that if this road is continued for another half mile or so one is arrested by the sight of three tremendously tall fir trees. Actually they are the three tallest trees in Ireland and very probably in the British Isles? They are more or less about the same height the tallest rising to a height of 145 feet. To visit these sights one need only apply to Mr. O'Bierne who is in charge of the estate, and will be found there almost anytime.

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 JA PATTISON
SURVEYOR

DATE 31st July 1943

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Sports And Games

Barony of BallinacorTown or Village Rathdrum Parish Rathdrum 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 Avonmore Nearest point to town (distance) $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Runs at
base of hill on which town is situated.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:Brown TroutAVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon --- Sea Trout --- Brown Trout Very small up to
 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Numerous.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Brown Trout Any of the common patterns such as Blue bottle, wielchams fancy
Red Spinner etc.

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

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

None.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

None.

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Rathdrum.

Local Angling Club None Membership Fee ---

Secretary (and Address) ---

SEA ANGLING

None.

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

None.

GOLFING

Name of Club None,

RACING

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

No. of meetings normally held during the year None.

Under which rules? ---

Situation of course ---

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds None.

Harriers None.

Beagles None.

COURSING

Name of Club None Meeting held annually? --

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company None.

SHOOTING

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

Although there is a good deal of rough shooting to be found there is practically no free shooting. The principal game found is Grouse, Woodcock occasional pheasant woodcock and rabbit almost so thick as to be nearly caught by hand.

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

The Earl of Meath who preserves a tremendous area and the Forestry Commission who have practically the remainder. The area to the north east of the town provides the only free shooting (Riparian owners) but here it is not very good.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club None

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: Avondale G.F.C. No particular field.
Ballinaclesh G.F.C. Field near 'Clash bridge.

Hurling: Avondale Hurling Club. No particular field.

Handball: No.

Soccer: No.

Rugby: No.

Cricket: No.

Hockey: No.

Bowls: No.

Bowling (on public roads): No.

Lawn Tennis: Rathdrum L.T.C. Kinds of courts 2 grass
On road to Avondale.

Croquet: No.

Billiards: No.

Badminton: Rathdrum Badminton Club (at Courthouse)

Table Tennis: Rathdrum Table tennis Club (at Courthouse)

Bridge Club: No.

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing): None.

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.

None.

Date 19th July, 1943.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

Amenities and General Information

Towns and Villages (Other than Seaside)

Barony of Ballinacor.Town or Village Rathdrum Parish Rathdrum County Wicklow.Population 700 - 800 approx.

Location and brief description.

The little town of Rathdrum is perched high upon a hill commanding beautiful views of the valley of the Avonmore and the Wicklow mountains. It is an excellent centre for touring mid Wicklow being within easy reach of The Vale of Clara, Glendalough, Glenealy, 'Meetings of the Waters', Aughavanna etc. Rathdrum is about 14 miles north of Arklow 10 miles west of Wicklow town and 38 miles south of Dublin.

Is there a Town Hall? No.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description:

None.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Good water supply and sewerage system and both are quite well availed of.PUBLIC SERVICESNearest station Rathdrum Distance 1/2 mile Bus? YesPublic lighting by - Electricity? Yes. Gas? No.DANCINGDance Hall Pavilion at Barry's Hotel Proprietor Mr. BarryCINEMAS AND THEATRESCinemas None.Theatre None.LIBRARIESPublic Libraries Branch of Co. Wicklow Library.CHURCHES AND SERVICESChurch R.C. Church Rathdrum Services (Sundays) 8.30 & 11.30 am.Methodist Church Rathdrum 10.30am.Church of Ireland Rathdrum 7pm every Sunday

Church of Ireland Rathdrum Services (Sundays) 1st & 3rd Sundays
12 noon. 2nd & 4th 10.30am
R.C. Church Clara 9am.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office: Main Street.
 Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) All

BANKING

Banks Hibernian Bank Main Street.

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers No particular sports dealers.
 Photographic Stores The Medical Stall Main Street.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? None.

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs: Dramatic Club Rathdrum.
Cultural Societies: Gaelic League Class (Held in Courthouse)

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS.

Industries: Milling, Forestry, Electrial Appliance Factory
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)
 Nothing that could be called important except perhaps the County Home.
 Architecturally the same as all others.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Convent Primary School for girls.
National Schools at Rathdrum 'Clash, Clara and Trooperstown. Industrial school
in the Convent for children under 10 years.

HOSPITALS

Hospital at County Home)
Sanatorium) Rathdrum

FAIRS AND MARKETS: HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets: 1st Tuesday each month.

Half-Holiday: Wednesday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

O'Reilly's garage Main St.
Mrs. Cullen's petrol station. (Garage not now in use).

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis: Mr. O'Reilly (Garage) Main St.
Mr. Weulahan Main St.
Mr. P. Cullen Market Square.

Motors Touring: As above.

Boats (State type): None.

Bicycles: Mr. McGrath Main St.)
Mr. L. O'Toole Main St.) Under normal conditions.

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location: No particular sites. Owners commission usually obtainable.

Local Improvements Committee: None.

Date: 19th July 1943

BARONY Ballinacor

COUNTY Wicklow

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathdrum.

HOTELS	NO. GUEST BEDROOMS	NO. OF BATHS	NO. OF LAVS.	NO. PUBLIC ROOMS	LICENSED	REMARKS
NB Barry's Hotel Main St.	3 (5)	1	3	2	Yes	Nice and clean apparently comfortable.
Pierces Hotel Main St.	10 (H ₄ C)	1	2	3	Yes	Will not be in use until after the emergency owing to the fact that the rooms are being used for Government storage.
NB Commercial Hotel	85	1	1	3	Yes	Fair. Difficulty in obtaining essential supplies prevents them taking people at the moment. Trying to overcome the problem.
Phelan's Hotel Ballinaclesh	9 (H ₄ C)	1	2	4	Yes	Excellent hotel beautifully kept.
<u>GUEST OR BOARDING HOUSES</u>						
Mrs. Givern Ballinaclesh	3	1	1	2	No	Rooms small, beautifully kept furnished excellent accom. but not often available owing to permanent guests.
Mrs. Byrne Main St. Rathdrum	3	-	1	2	No	Poor. Typical ordinary boarding house food beautiful but very roughly served.
NB Rhine View Guest House (Mrs. Garrett Doyle)	5	1	1	2	No	Clean. Adequately furnished. Having stayed there surveyor is not enthusiastic regarding value given.

DATE 19th July 1943

Note:- Rockmount Hotel though in this parish was done by Mr. D'Arcy.

If undelivered please return to:-

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION (INC.)
15 UPR. O'CONNELL ST.
DUBLIN.

Photos.

Rathdrum psh.



Rathdrum Parish

Vale of Lara

Pattison



Rathdrum Parish

P

Avondale House

Pattison



Rathdrum Parish

"Parnell's Crooked"

Pattison

A.



Rathdrum Parish

Grattan's House,

~~Clara~~ Vale of Clara

Kathleen



Rathdrum Parish

Ireland's Tallest
Trees, Avondale -

145 ft. High
Catterson



P

Rathdrum Parish

"Stump of the
Castle,"

Pattison
~~Rathdrum~~



Rathdrum Parish

"Lovers' Leap"

Avondale

D

Pattison



Rathdrum Parish

~~Kilcommon~~

Kilcommon

Graveyard Rathdrum

d



Rathdruim Parish

Ruined

Monuments on old

race course at Pattison

Whaley Abbey.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Ballinacor

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathdunn PARISH Rathdunn COUNTY Wicklow

TOPOGRAPHY

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

There are unnumerable really beautiful views in the parish so it is difficult to single out the best ones. In mentioning the ones most easily obtained one probably finds the solution "The 'Vale of Clara' as seen from the Rathdunn ^{road}" is exceedingly beautiful. The valley from Ballinacorb to the "Meatings" is very lovely when viewed either from Keshelagh Abbey or from the Dublin road. The valley of the Avonmore from Rathdunn to the "Meatings" is well worth looking at particularly if one can include a visit to the Forestry Commission's estate at Anondale. For equally beautiful scenery but more difficult to get at, the trip from Knockree ^{Rath} over the mountains to Greengate will well repay the tourist for the difficulty of ^{obtaining it.}

GEOLOGY

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

The terrain in this parish is extremely mountainous in fact throughout the whole area it would be difficult to locate a couple of hundred yards of level ground. Most of the hills are well tree-covered which enhances the general appearance. It can be fairly safely assumed that the unevenness of the land is probably due to glacial action. The predominant rocks of

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? far famed pink and grey
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge? granites rocks

which are so hard and weather resisting that they have produced the jagged outlines of the typical Wicklow mountain scenery.

~~Nothing of this type in the area~~

ANTIQUITIES

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Whaley Abbey. Bahana Whaley. Kilkenny Monastery.

In 1658 Oliver Cromwell wrote to his son, Henry, the Lord Protector of Ireland, commending to his care, his "cousin Whaley." He thereby established in this country a rapacious adventurer whose race continued with all its excess down to 1800 when the last of them died in extreme poverty.

Henry the "Protector" granted to his relative by marriage, Whaley, great tracts of land in Wicklow and other counties and accordingly the place spoken of became known as Bahana Whaley or Whaley Abbey. One member of the family Richard Chapell Whaley M.P. for Co. Wicklow 1747-760 known as "Burn Chapel Whaley" owing to the number of ^{Catholic} Chapels which he destroyed as "Commissioner of the Peace!!" was a vicious persecutor of the ^{Papists} Ecclesiastical priests. Son of the man was Thomas Whaley better known as "Buck" Whaley the dissolute son of the late 18th century in Dublin. The stories of his gambles and fast living are related even to the present time - his associations with the "Hell Fire Club" in the Dublin mountains, his dogs and racehorses, his racecourse in the grounds of Whaley Abbey, and, most famous of all, his ^{wager} to journey to Jerusalem, play handball against its walls, and return inside two years, during the height of the Napoleonic wars, a feat which he accomplished thereby winning as a result £16000. This man who inherited £60000 in money and an income of £7000 p.a., in the course of a few years dissipated a fortune of £400,000 and died penniless as the last of the Whaleys.

Bahana ("the place of the birch trees") Whaley, overlooking the beautiful Dale of Anoga is an enchanting spot and little is it to be wondered that it was chosen by Ciar, a relative of ~~Leobh~~ ^{St. Kevin} of Glencolumbkille as a site for a monastery. There is a good deal of controversy as to who exactly Ciar was. According to Canon O'Hanlon in his lives of Irish Saints she was a virgin and possibly a sister of St. Kevin. Rev M. V. Ryan in his investigation inclines to the belief of a male founder and determines Ciar or Csembar the brother of St. Kevin. The abbey, which apparently stood somewhere close to the present graveyard, but of which there is now no trace, was in use until approx the 11th century at which time many of the Celtic monasteries closed down. The church is believed to have been used by the people and was mentioned as one of the churches of

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

Whaley Abbey Cont

the Dublin diocese in 1275. It is thought that it was used up to the late 16th Century and then fell into disuse. In the centre of the graveyard is the ^{remains} ~~remains~~ of a church, the bare outline of the foundations being visible. Whether or not this was the original church it is difficult to say, but it may be as it is apparently in disuse for a very long period. In the graveyard are a number of XVIIIth Century headstones which may be interesting. There is free access to the graveyard etc. The house of Whaley Abbey is occupied but the owner is of the opinion that only a very small portion of it is the original building as it has been many times ^{removed} ~~renewed~~ since the time of the Whaleys! He is a Mr Martin by name and he has no objection to genuinely interested people visiting the house.

In the field opposite the house, which was once the racecourse, can be seen the broken-down monument which once stood there. ^{in regard but it is said to have} Regarding the exact ^{purpose} nature of this ~~could not get any information except from a local person who stated that it had been erected in honour of King William.~~

The location of Whaley Abbey is to the left of the Angham - Ballinaclesh road, 1 mile south of Ballinaclesh. It also overlooks the "meetings" and the village of Ballinaclesh, better known as "Clesh".

There remains a legend around Avoca, though not now generally known and it is as follows: - Cross the brother of St Kevin was sent by him to mend sheep one day and he was instructed to give them his whole attention but unfortunately he became distracted by a beautiful deer. Overcome with remorse he confessed his fault, Kevin being very austere directed him for penance, to walk backwards with his face towards Glendalough along the ^{Avonmore River} ~~Abbeys~~ ^{by} ~~or~~ holding a withered holly branch and continue until it should turn green again.

At the "meetings of the waters" his holly became miraculously green again and at the nearby Sahanah he established his monastery. Until recent years the "way hole" at the "meetings" was bathed in for its curative properties.

Rathdunn. The town of Rathdunn is situated high on a prominence overlooking the Avonmore river and it is believed that at one time a large and important Rath was located here, from which the town takes its name. There is at the present time no trace whatever of this Rath and no remnants of antiquity to link the town with the Past.

Site of Abbey or Monastery

As far as can be gathered this old monastery stood in the townland of Ballinabarney on the site now occupied by the house of a Mrs Moran. Not a stone of the original building remains apparently, and the only thing that could be learned about it was that it was called St Mary's Abbey. What community peopled it is also unknown. The most convenient way to locate the site is to proceed to Greenane bridge on the Ballinaclesh - Glendalough road, and ask ^{an} ~~an~~ ^{engineer} ~~in~~ ^{the} ~~house~~ ^{licensed} ~~house~~ ^{house} situated there to point out the exact spot. The intending visitor could either traverse the fields which would be infinitely shorter or go around the road for some couple of miles. Mrs Moran has no objection to people visiting etc. He herself does not know anything of its history being a new-comer.

Historic Sites

In the Dale of Clara high up on the northern slope above the little chapel is a house which was once owned by ^{Henry} Grattan of Irish Parliamentary fame. Here he lived at certain times but it is more probable that it was ^{used as} ~~a~~ ^{place} ~~of~~ ^a shooting lodge for him. An ordinary unimposing two story stone building it is at present owned by a Mrs Neely. ~~Again~~ Any one wishing to visit it may do so. To locate it one must go to Clara on the Rathdrum - Glendalough road, go down to the Chapel, and up the other side; and the house is easily visible facing down. It might be remarked that the climbing to this house, both ways, is very heavy.

The Flannel Hall Rathdrum

Nowadays this old hall is used as a Court house for petty sessions but originally it was built as a kind of market hall where flannel was traded. Subsequently it was used as a jail and during troubled times ~~insurgents etc.~~ ^{and others,} having been apprehended and executed, ~~the~~ ^{the} heads of ~~were~~ ^{were} impaled on spikes outside of it. It is situated on top of the hill at the southern side of the town of Rathdrum, and can be easily seen. Owned by the Coolatin estate. (Lord Fitzwilliam).

Kilcommon Graveyard

4

This old graveyard is situated about two miles north of the town of Rathdrum overlooking the main Rathdrum Dublin road. Right of way up to it is at the house of Mr Martin Babana Rathdrum. Not in the care of Public Works and free access.

Lies to the memory of a cousin by Michael Lawlor on a plaque on the wall or gable of Kilcommon old Church.

" In this lone corner by this sacred wall,
Where dew of heaven on my festoons fall
Lie the remains all mouldering into dust
Of one whose virtue ne'er was soiled with rust.
The noblest specimen of woman-kind
That e'er blew here breath on wind
She loved the good and always shunned the wrong
Her angel spirit now sings heavens song.

Kilcommon is situated in the townland of Babana on top of a steep hill about the distance described above. Within the graveyard are the remains of an old chapel consisting chiefly of the north gable, though it is badly broken down, and an out line of the foundations of the church. The building was 40ft x 24ft and was built of crude stones of various sizes. In the ^{existing} gable standing in the remains ^{there are traces} of a window ^{with deep inward splay} which is considerably wider and larger on the inside than on the outside; the measurements are approx $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ ft inside and $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft x 8 ft on the outside. It is built like the embraced windows in a castle. The stones forming the coping or edging stones on the outside are of sandstone and the topstone is missing. It cannot be ascertained what form of architecture was revealed by the arching. The wall is about 3 ft thick. Regarding its history, little is definitely known. According to Fr M. Ronan the church was being used in 1531. This was apparently not the church founded by St Coman or Colman, but probably stood on the site of the original church. Regarding the origin here again antiquarians are controversial. Fr Ronan in writing on its founder concluded that it was founded by a St Colman, the word "Common" being a corruption of Colman. According to a Fr Galvin late P.P. Rathdrum St Kevin had a brother Colmanus 448. Abbot of Ardensis also Caembas another brother; which of these, if any, founded the institution is a matter for conjecture, nor does it materially affect the case that it was the cell or church of one of the early disciples of our patron saint. In the graveyard are some xviiith Cent head stones which may be of interest. The one claiming most notice is that to a Rev Bryan Byrne 1776. Its grant
over.

but interesting carving is unusual as it depicts, besides the Crucifix, a Roman soldier with a lance, others on horseback, figures in the background and the representation of a church.

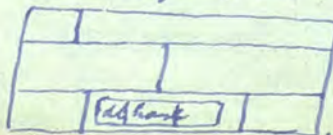
* Note:- These men are also claimed as being the founders of Kilkenny. "Common" being held as being a corruption of any of these names.

Stump of the Castle.

This is exactly what the name implies, a stump of a castle and is situated high on the side of a hill or mountain in the townland of that name, exactly opposite the town of Rathdrum to the north ^{of Rathdrum} and approximately 2^{mi} to 2^{1/2} miles from ~~same~~ that town.

The "Stump" consists now of about half of what was probably a corner tower and is for the most part heavily ivy-covered. The structure is of no very early date being of large stones similar ^{to those of the} XVth + XVIth century buildings. Inside it one finds a narrow passage running 8 to 10 ft and ending in a circular little room with a narrow slit-like window ^{and corbelled roof}. The ceiling is of overlapping stone slabs forming a very shallow dome. The outlines of the entire building are no longer traceable though it is believed to have been quite large. It is owned by a Mr Cahill who has no objection to people visiting it. Unfortunately there appears to be no record of who built it or at what time and, apparently, it is quite a long time in disuse, and as nothing in this country prior to 1798 seems to be known locally the only reference may be found in the Journal of Royal Soc. of Antiquaries Vol 63 + Vol 66 (1933-1936) on Castles in Wicklow, by Dick Justice Price.

Castle at Knockrath. High up on the hillside on the southern side of the vale of Clara is found the remains of an old castle. Situated about 3 miles west of Rathdrum and ~~3/4~~ 1/2 of a mile to the left of the Rathdrum Slendalough road. It is located by going up the road which commences at the house of Mr Pembury n.e.v.s. and following this road until the woods are past then on looking up to the left, can be seen the castle remains. At the present time it consists chiefly of the remnants of walls which have become more or less covered with soil & grass and around are innumerable heaps of stones which probably belonged to the building these stones are undressed. The plan of the castle is rectangular being about approx 200 ft x 150 ft. The various apartments or yards whichever they may have been can be discerned. On the southern side stands the remains of an old stone house probably of a much later date. This is composed of the gables and side walls having been built with the stones of the original castle. A rough sketch of the foundations would be like the following:-



so no difficulty
anything
Antiquities Ireland

The land is owned by a Mr Cahill and there about viewing it. Unable to find out about its history locally. Ref: Journal Royal Soc. of Ant. Vol. 63, & 66. These may possibly allude to it.

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.

"Lovers Leap" This is a spot in the grounds of the Yonestry Dept at Arundale house. It consists of a rock prominence overlooking the river Arundmore and making a sheer drop of up to a couple of hundred feet. The visitor has a most beautiful view from this spot. The old legend so often come by of the unhappy lovers leaping from such a place applies in this instance also. It is located by taking the little road to the left immediately on entering the gate at the gatehouse and as one traverses this route the railing can be seen on the left hand side less than a quarter mile from the gate. It may be worth mentioning here that if this road is continued for another half mile or so one is arrested by the sight of three tremendously tall fir trees. Actually they are the three tallest trees in Ireland and very probably in the British Isles. They are more or less about the same height the tallest rising to a height of 145 feet. To visit these sights one need only apply to Mr O'Brien who is in charge of the estate, and will be found there almost anytime.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

None.

DATE

31st July '13

(Signed)

J. Patterson

Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF Ballinacor

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathdrum PARISH Rathdrum 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 Avenmore Nearest point to town (distance) 1/2 mile. Runs at base of hill on which town is situated.

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Brown Trout.

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout Very small up to 4 lb. Numerous.

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon Sea trout Brown trout much the same all year but early summer maybe a little better.

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon

Sea trout

Brown trout Any of the Common or patterns such as Blue body wickham's fancy, Red Spinner etc. Bottle?

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

entirely free.

Preserved stretches with names and addresses of Proprietors:

.....
.....
.....
none
.....
.....

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:

.....
none
.....
.....

Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Rathdrum
.....
.....

Local Angling Club none Membership Fee

Secretary (and Address)

SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds :

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

none

Kinds of fish to be caught :

.....
.....

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

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

none

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

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

GOLFING

Name of Club..... *none*..... 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?..... *none*
Situation of course.....

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district :

Foxhounds.....
Harriers..... *none*
Beagles.....

COURSING

Name of Club..... *none* Meeting held annually?.....

GREYHOUND RACING

Name of Company..... *none*
Races on (nights).....

SHOOTING

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

Although there is a good deal of rough shooting to be found there is practically no free shooting. The principal game found is Grouse Woodcock occasional pheasant woodcock & rabbits almost so thick as to be nearly caught by hand

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

The Earl of Meath who preserves a tremendous area and the Forestry Commission who have practically the remainder. The area to the north east of the forest provides the only free shooting (Republican owned) but here it is not very good.
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 *Asondale G.F.C. No particular field*
Ballinaclesh C.F.C. Field near Clash bridge.
Hurling *Asondale Hurling Club No particular field.*
Handball..... *no* Handball alley?.....
Soccer..... *no*
Rugby..... *no*
Cricket..... *no*
Hockey..... *no*
Bowls..... *no*
Bowling (on public roads)..... *no*
Lawn Tennis *Rathdrum F.C. On road to Asondale* Kinds of courts *2 grass*
Croquet..... *no*
Billiards..... *no*
Badminton *Rathdrum Badminton Club (at Courthouse)*
Table Tennis..... *" Table Tennis " " "*
Bridge Club..... *no*
Other games or recreations (inc. " Cross Roads " dancing).....
..... *none*

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING

Name of Club..... *none* Events held under rules of.....
do.

ANNUAL EVENTS

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

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

DATE *19th July 43*

(Signed) *J. Patterson*
Surveyor.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

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

BARONY OF Ballinacor

TOWN OR VILLAGE Rathdrum PARISH Rathdrum COUNTY Wicklow

Location and brief description.

Population 700 - 800 approx

The little town of Rathdrum is perched high upon a hill commanding beautiful views of the valley of the Avonmore and the Wicklow mountains. It is an excellent centre for touring mid Wicklow being within easy reach of the vale of Clara, Glendalough, Glencahy, Meeting of the Waters, Aughavanna etc. Rathdrum is about 14 miles north of Arklow, 10 miles west of Wicklow town and 38 miles south of Dublin.

Is there a Town Hall? Yes Location

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds. Brief description :

none

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage :

Good water supply and sewerage system and baths are quite well provided of

PUBLIC SERVICES

Nearest station Rathdrum Distance 1/2 mile Bus? Yes

Public lighting by—Electricity? Yes Gas? No

DANCING

Dance hall Pavilion at Proprietor

Camp Hotel Mr. Barry

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas none Pictures shown (nights)

Theatre none Kind of shows (Drama, Comedy &c.)

LIBRARIES

Public Libraries Branch of Co Wicklow Library

Private Lending Libraries

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

Church R.C. Church Rathdunn Services (Sundays) 8.30 & 11.30 am.

Methodist Church " 10.30 am

Church of Ireland " 7 p.m. every Sunday

" " 1st & 3rd Sunday 12 noon.

R.C. Church Clara 2nd & 4th 10.30 am.
9 a.m.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office Main Street

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

BANKING

Banks Heberman Bank Main St

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers no particular sports dealers

Photographic Stores The Medical Hall Main St.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool? none Location —

Public Baths? — Location —

SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs *Dramatic Club Rathdrum*

Cultural Societies *Gaelic League Class (held in Courthouse)*

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries *Milling, Forestry, Electrical Appliance
Factory*

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)

*nothing that could be called important
except perhaps the County House. Architecturally
the same as all others.*

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

*Convent Primary School for Girls
National Schools at Rathdrum, Clash Clara
and Traaspaston Industrial School in
the Convent for children under 10 years*

HOSPITALS

*Hospital at County House
Sanatorium } Rathdrum*

FAIRS AND MARKETS ; HALF-HOLIDAY

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

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

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS

O'Keefe Garage Main St
Mrs Sullins Petrol Station (Garage not now in use)

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners) :

Taxis *Mr O'Rielly (Garage) Main St*
Mr W. Oulahan Main St
Mr P. Cullen Market Square

Motors (Touring) *as above*

Boats (State type) *none*

Bicycles *Mr McCrath Main St* } *under normal*
Mr L. O'Keefe Main St } *conditions*

Caravans *—*

Horses.....

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location *no particular site* Landowner.....
Owners permission
usually obtainable

Local Improvements Committee *none*

Secretary.....

DATE *19th July '43* (Signed) *J.P. O'Keefe*
Surveyor.

I.T.A. SURVEY FORM E.
 BARONY... Ballynacorney.....

ACCOMMODATION
 COUNTY... Wicklow.....

PARTISH... Rathdrum.....
 TOWN OR VILLAGE... Rathdrum.....

HOTELS	No. Guest Bedrooms	No. of Baths	No. of Lav.	No. Public Rooms	Licensed	Remarks
<u>Barrap Hotel</u>	35	1	3	2	Yes	<u>Nice and clean apparently comfortable</u>
<u>Pierce Hotel</u>	10 ⁽¹⁴⁾	1	2	3	Yes	<u>Will not be for use until after the emergency owing to the fact that the rooms are being used for Government storage</u>
<u>Commercial Hotel</u>	85	1	1	3	Yes	<u>Fair. Difficulty in obtaining essential supplies prevents them taking people at the moment trying to overcome the problem</u>
<u>Philans Hotel</u>	9 ⁽¹⁰⁾	1	2	4	Yes	<u>Excellent hotel beautifully kept</u>
Guest or Boarding Houses						
<u>Mrs Guerin</u>	3	1	1	2	No	<u>Rooms small, beautifully kept, furnished excellent room but not after available owing to permanent guests</u>
<u>Mrs Byrne</u>	3	-	1	2	No	<u>Typical ordinary boarding house food plentiful but very roughly served</u>
<u>Mini View Guest House</u>	5	1	1	2	No	<u>Room Adequately furnished. Having stayed here Smokey is not enthusiastic regarding value given</u>

Signed: J. Dalton

Date: 19th July 43
 Note: Rockmount Hotel though in the parish was done by Mr D. Ardy.