

(Mayo East)

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY 20.

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Castello

TOWN OR VILLAGE Kilbally PARISH Kilmoree COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish, which is a regular one, extends from a point about 2 miles west of Kilbally to the Mayo/Rosemount boundary two miles east of Kilmoree parish church. This is the area's greatest west to east length, being almost 11 miles. The district averages a north to south breadth of 3 to 4 miles. The county boundary, though irregular, forms the whole of the parish's eastern limit. A small portion of the Lung River runs with the county line.

In general the area is not scenically beautiful, being a combination of pasture land, bog and heath, tillage, rocky woodland slopes and small water sheets. Interspersed through the landscape are patches of woods and stunted bush.

GEOLOGY

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

The parish is of limestone which is in parts peat-topped or which carries drift in irregular formation forming long hills and abrupt ones. Some ridges however are of sand and gravel bases but they do not appear true across a belt of country trending north-east from Kilbally has much loose rock scattered on its surface.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

None of imposing character.

Larnam House, plain, two-story, in Larnam woodland
was Mr. M. Walsh.

Sir Henry O'Connell, of the Congested Districts Board, lived here for some years at the beginning of the present century.

One the residence of the O'Connors of Larnam. The family vault is in Malpas Abbey. The O'Connors were landed people but evidently truly Irish and well spoken of and popular in the district.

Topography. Page 2.

Kilbally lies in the west of the parish. It is a small country town on the Lough R. with a background of green hills that rise up over it. Most pleasant spot in the district is Melrose some 4 1/2 miles E.S.E. of Kilbally. Here is Melrose Lough, about 2 miles long by an average of 500/600 yds. wide. Beside it is Lough Menege. The southern lake shores are fringed by a range of low green hills. The northern shores have some pleasant tree growth and green fields which run to the water's edge. Melrose L. is the popular one, chiefly because the fine ruins of Melrose Abbey stand beside the water on its northern shore and lend an attractive touch to the scene.

A narrow road runs to the lake edge beside the Abbey. On fine Sundays in summer - the local people are wont to visit Melrose Lake and Abbey. They loiter and talk for a while; and that end pleasantly idle the time on the "Cullies' Dub." This is the local name for the ruined first floor of the Abbey domestic portion.

A special day for visiting Melrose is the Sunday after the annual Abbey pattern on Aug. 4th.

Wide-spread views are not frequent, due to intervening low hills but the best are to be got from the higher hill country in the north of the parish. On the road near Shanness School, just at the parish boundary, the view goes to north and north-west - the one mountain range - the Killarney foothills with Swan Linn, Keplin more and attendant peaks, and a tiny glimpse of Lough Lellan. In between is rolling country with small water sheets and stunted tree growth and many white homesteads.

West is Craaghmore and the Malinagh hills. South west in near view is Slieve Haraw and far beyond over undulating country are the Pasty mountains. South is Kilbally with rolling hills beyond it. East the view carries on into the level plains of Co. Roscommon. Shanness is 2 1/4 miles north of Kilbally.

The tourist seeing Kilmore parish from Kilkelly could travel to
Malone - then continue on through Aghaduffin to the main road between
Kilkelly and Bellefleur. (3 1/2 M). [Kilmore parish church and
ecclesiastical centre of the district, is 1/4 M east on the main road.]
Turning left and following main road to Glentworth crossroads
(4 1/2 M), travel by right side-road over hill country to Shannons
crossroads, 2 M. Then south to Kilkelly, 2 M.