

(Mayo N)

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# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Tirawley

TOWN OR VILLAGE None. PARISH Addergoole. COUNTY Mayo (North).

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Addergoole lies to the south of Crossmolina, skirts the major portion of the western shore of Lough Conn, extends for a considerable distance through mountain and bogland in the west and in the south western extremity, stretches to within three miles of Newport town.

Rugged, tall mountains, deep peaceful glens and pretty lake and wooded countryside all combine with a charming effect which is unequalled for many miles around.

Mount Nephin, the highest mountain in these regions, (2646ft) may be climbed with comparative ease from the western side and many who have accomplished the ascent will testify to the wonder and memorable delight of the experience. The far distant horizon embraces on the one hand, the islet studded Atlantic Ocean, on the other, colourful plains.

### GEOLOGY

Continued A2.

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

The terrain is largely mountainous with much bogland and some limestone land. There are no unusual geological features.

### MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past assoc'ations. Libraries or art collections?  
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

#### MASSBROOK DEMESNE.

On the edge of Lough Conn, within a couple of miles of Pontoon and amid the most beautiful surroundings, is the Massbrook Demesne, property of a Mr Harrison who, as yet, resides in Leeds. The house is of French design and was erected about fifty years ago for a Colonel Johnston, then owner of the estate and resident in a smaller house which still remains in good condition. The newer house is a charming, well constructed building and from its position among the tall, densely planted trees, commands a splendid view of the Lake.

At the rear of the house is a fruit, flowers and vegetable garden, very tastefully laid out and the trim walks and avenues and modern out-offices demonstrate the care and attention which they receive. Many rare trees are planted near the house and the colour scheme of the flowering shrubs is very pleasing to the eye. On the lake shore, a modern boat house, with overhead balcony and roller slipway, is another fine asset to the property.

Visitors may obtain permission to view the estate from the manager, Mr James Byrne.

See A2.

TOPOGRAPHY (Continued).

wooded valleys, the brilliant sheen of the lakes, whilst in every direction, the supremacy of Nephin is challenged by a score of massive craggy mountains of the Nephin and other ranges.

A remarkably striking view is that obtained from the hilltop on the road which joins Bofeenaun and Massbrook; the most unpoetic soul must stir to the surrounding, enchanting beauty which so unexpectedly presents itself. Far-stretching Lough Conn of the many little green islands and sheltered bays contrasts very pleasantly with Lough Lavally (or Pollamarla Lake) which is tucked in here among the hills; the occasional <sup>clumps</sup> of trees add a welcome splash of colour to the view and the nearby mountains constitute a most fitting background.

The district around Beltra Lake also offers many very attractive sights.

Lahardane, six miles from Crossmolina, sixteen miles from Castlebar (twelve via Windy Gap), and thirteen from Ballina, is the nearest approach to a village in this parish.

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Mansions and Estates. Cont'd.CASTLEHILL HOUSE.

Castlehill House, a mansion of no great age and indeterminate architecture was the home of a family named Walsh before changing hands a couple of times in latter years and is now owned by a Mr Rivaz who is at present living in England.

The house is vacant and of no particular interest. Fruit and vegetables are grown in the garden of two acres and the larger portion of the estate lands have been acquired by the Land Commission.

The caretaker, Mr John Walsh, will allow visitors to view the place free of charge.

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ANTIQUITIES Continued.

(Castlehill)

This castle is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters as having been destroyed by O'Donnell in A.D. 1526 when the Tirconail chieftain also laid waste the castle at Crossmolina.

A huge block of crumbled masonry marks the early existence of a keep at Knockmaria, near Lahardane but here also, no tradition or legend appertains to the ruin. Gold and silver coins were discovered near here many years ago. The landowner is Mr John MacHale.

The natives of the Terrybawn district near Pontoon, will point out the supposed site of an ancient castle near the shore of Lough Conn. A popular local legend tells of the tragic romance of a young girl who eloped to wed her lover and came to live at the castle. Her brothers, furious at this defiance of their father's wishes, surprised and slew the young husband on the hills where he had been hunting. Returning to the castle, they threw the gory head of her husband to their sister. Utterly demented, the girl ran from her home and drowned herself in the lake.