

(Map of East)

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FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

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BARONY OF Clanmorris

TOWN OR VILLAGE Crossbayne PARISH Crossbayne and Jagheen COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish lies just to the south-west and west of Clanmorris. Its greatest length is roughly north to south (Dunmaddy to Seefin) approx. 7 miles; its greatest width is about 5 miles (W. to E. - Jagheen to Castle Mac Gassett bridge on the Clanmorris/Ballindine road).

Locally, the main feature of the area is the demesne surrounding Castle Mac Gassett. The estate covers some 2000 acres and is finely timbered with a full profusion of trees and plant growth. That
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GEOLOGY

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

The area is totally of limestone formation. Except for those parts which are peat capped, the soil is very suitable for cultivation. The district is purely agricultural.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Castle Mac Gassett. Situate in a demesne of some 2000 acres. Three entrances - ~~two~~^{two} on main Clanmorris/Ballindine road, the one some 2 1/4 miles from Clanmorris, the other about a mile from Ballindine. The third entrance is at Crossbayne village.

The castle itself is a notable rectangular mansion (plate) which is plainly featured - it was originally stables which were at first converted and then added to.

Castle Mac Gassett is the seat of Rt. Hon. Lord Clanmorris and Crossbayne - (also Lord Inverworth).

Family tradition gave the name as being given to Ireland with Stranglow and to have been obtained by property near Athlone which passed from the family in 1855 and that it...

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Geography. Page 2.

part of the Clannorris / Ballinacree main road adjacent to the den is rendered attractive by flanking foliage. The river takes the course on the east side and leaves it at Crossbawn, a village of half-a-dozen houses and two churches, set against wooded richness of Castle Lee Forest. The river meanders on through the parish which, apart from Castle Lee and some wooded belts outside it, is generally of a poor character.

Highest point in the area is Celta Hill - some 300 ft elevation. From its summit the view takes in the Reek, Partington mountains to the west - Slieve Donard to the north and elsewhere, broad, horizon-reaching, tracts of low rolling country - dotted with homesteads. It is said that on very clear days, fifteen church spires can be located in different parts of the country below.