

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Carra

TOWN OR VILLAGE CASILBAR PARISH Aghish, Ballyhean + Breeghy COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish runs in a fairly compact strip from the Burren semi-mountain area, some 5 miles north of Castlerea, to about 5 miles south of the town i.e. an half mile south of Ballyhean village. In breadth this strip varies from 2 to 4 miles west to east.

The area is not one of distinctive scenery. The Burren area is rugged with farming patches interspersed amongst rocky and boggy hills. Several tiny lakes lie in this district which holds the foot hills of the lower Dublin range that stretches between Keshna Lake and Lough Conn + Lough. The Burren valley leads to the well known Bannaghela or Windy gap.

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc. (Contd. on page 2)

Geikie's geological map shows an isolated basalt belt, some 5 miles long by less than 1 mile wide, running from Castlerea Lake, through the northern end of Castlerea and ending near Tuwallow. This strip thus cuts across Aghish parish from W.S.W. to N.N.E. Elsewhere the Castlerea, Ballyhean and Breeghy districts are of limestone. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood outside the town in these localities.

In the north of the parish - the Aghish area - there is the metamorphic formation of mica schist, phyllite, gneiss etc. A tip of the Lough granite formation enters this area - this tip is the western limit of the granite which is contained from the one on Slieve Gampah range across Lough Gillin + the southern end of Lough Conn.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

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

None of imposing character with gardens etc.
{ Only residence in area is that of Mr. Brown of Breeghy.
{ A neat, solid country residence.

"Oglish" is said to be "Eoghlach - Cluich" - the full title being "Eoghlach Uí Chuirn" = "Oglis clannach" = "clerk of the clan of Quinn".

The historic town of Castlebar is the county capital. ("Castlebar" a "barraing" = "Barry's Castle.") It is the meeting point of roads from all parts of Co. Mayo. The town is situated amongst low hills from whose summits the various buildings of the capital are best viewed. Factories, churches, military barracks, etc. hospitals etc.

A pleasant feature of the town is its well-tended "green" - neatly kept and an ~~pleasant~~ attractive addition to the general appearance of busy streets and premises.

The town stands on the Castlebar River flowing from Castlebar Lough - usually called Lough Lannagh - just to the west. The lake is a favourite bathing place for Castlebar residents and there is a diving board over a safe water-depth.

The Breehony area, E.S.F. of the town is chiefly farming country of tilled and pasture lands. A timbered stretch affords pleasing contrast.

The Ballyheane district to the south of Castlebar is similar to that of Breehony. In it is the tiny scattered village of Ballyheane (beal-uis-í-éin) (beal úis Seáin = O'Donovan) and the small lakes, Bunconn and Cookey.