

(Mayo East)

FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF

Gallen

TOWN OR VILLAGE

NONE

PARISH

Killassess

COUNTY

Mayo.

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish takes in an area from Ceelegagh in the west to the county boundary in the east (10 1/2) and from Corlee in the north and its adjoining lowlands of Knockpadda and Carston which touch the county line, to the river Moy (1 1/2) in the south. It takes in Collow district to the west and from here directly east to the county boundary it is 8 miles in length.

The area can be divided into two topographical regions. The mountainous area north of a line from Ceelegagh's southern

GEOLOGY

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

The northern part of the parish is of carboniferous limestone, peak-topped. The south and south-eastern part is of drift-covered limestone formation the country being mostly a succession of low long-sloped hillsides sometimes drumlin-like. Towards the north-east parish boundary there is a small and narrow metamorphic belt of mica schist, phyllite, gneiss etc. isolated in a limestone tract. The belt runs N.E. to S.W. Another isolated similar belt in a limestone area runs N.W. to S.E. on the east side of the Collow or western parish area which is all of metamorphic formation.

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.

boundary to the county line in the east. The second region comprises the Colles area to the west and crossing the main Gosford/Swift road. The third is the flat country in the south-eastern part of the parish.

The northern area is scenically rugged and wild. The southern off-shoots of the Ose mountain range tower over the foothills. But fill this region and form innumerable tiny valleys in which houses nestle, their white-lined walls contrasting with the dark of the mountain sides and the grey of the bare rocks that strew each hillside. Tiny water sheets and hundreds of mountain houlds add scenic touches.

Best known of all hills in this area is Sron Cam, rising - or so it is said - to an altitude of 500 feet. Its name is given - I think - because in the distance it looks like a humped-up nose. Below Sron Cam's precipitous northern slope is Sron lake, small but filling the little rugged valley it lies in. Sron Cam's real name is Crogham, with the lake similarly named but 'Sron' is so well-known that this name is long forgotten. From the main roads far south of Swift and this hill always catches the traveller's eye.

Down through this area the little yellow River winds its course and leaves the parish (at its western boundary) on its way to the bay.

Views from this area are splendid and may be had at practically any high point. The view from the top of Sron, however, is the most popular. South and south-east one looks down on a great expanse of flat country stretching away to the far horizon. The lakes of the moor away down below, show up like gleaming lakelets. East, the plain still carries on over a great bog area to greener country beyond with here and there the glimpse of little water-sheets. North-east the mountain chain of the Ose range and north and north-west, in near view, the same mountain line and the wild valleys of Glendaduff. The western aspect is the finest. The gorge sweeps away down the valley into Gosford and beyond at the waters of Lough Cullin, the Pontoon hills, and further away beyond

while a little north-west; heather moor rises up to dominate the scene.

It is interesting to pick out the towns from Swain: Gosford, Kiltrinagh, Swinford (nearby), Charlestown, Gulliverney, all these as the gorge swings from west to east.

Cycle rides or hikes: By the road that leads by "Swain Cam" from the main Ballin/Swinford road. The parish is entered about 1/2 m from the town and the road sweeps round high-up on the hillside to the county boundary 6 1/2 m., affording a splendid view all the way. Diversions can be made into any of the valleys to obtain local views.

The Callow area is also rich in sugged heath. Rocky hills intermingled with green slopes and heathery moors but the best of the scene can be enjoyed around Callow Lakes, Upper and Lower, which are situated along the main Gosford/Swinford road. Here, verdant wood lines a good stretch of lake shore while on the west, the high slopes come down steeply to the water's edge. Two heights, Cullaneethan Breen, and Aulag Breen, each around 300 ft. dominate the north and south ends of Upper Lough Callow. An 100 ft. above it, just over the hill, is Lough Muck, a good portion of which is in this parish.

The best view is that from the high ground behind Callow Church. From this peak (462) one looks down directly on Callow Lakes and on Lough Muck just above it. The sight of the lakes, so close to each other yet on levels 100 apart, is most interesting. Around Lough Muck is a mountain valley chain, sugged and wild. North, the gorge sweeps as far as eye can see, between the mountains and down into the valley of the Moy. South one gazes at Swinford and far away beyond it to the horizon. South-west, lowland again as far as Slieve Harrow. East, the plain as far as Charlestown north-east; the Slieve garragh (or Ox) range, the fast hills of north Killarney and most prominent of all, the well-known "Swain Cam".

Callow area can be enjoyed by bicycle or hike; Gosford to Swinford (8 1/2)