

(Mayo North)

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FORM A.

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

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF TirawleyTOWN OR VILLAGE None in parish PARISH Lacken COUNTY Mayo (North)

## TOPOGRAPHY

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

Lacken parish comprises the north-eastern corner of Mayo. There is no town or village in the parish, and from the Post Office at Carrowmore, the distance to Killala is five miles, to Ballycastle, seven miles and to Ballina, thirteen.

<sup>along</sup> There is much beautiful scenery in the district, particularly ~~that~~ <sup>on</sup> the coast. Lacken Strand, at low tide, is probably ~~the~~ most delightful scene. This inlet of the sea is protected at the mouth by a large sandbank which forms a natural barrier, and ~~which~~ would completely bar the sea at high tides, but for the narrow channel caused by the Cleenalaghan River, a small stream which enters the sea here. ~~The little parish church is very uniquely situated on the west side, at the commencement of the strand which runs for about a mile out to sea and is almost a mile wide.~~

## GEOLOGY

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

Near the ruin of Castlenageehy, on the west shore of Killala Bay, there are some large holes or caves in the face of the cliffs of rock. These are the homes of the seals which are numerous hereabouts but access to the caves is difficult and can only be achieved from a boat, provided that the sea be calm. The caves cannot be seen easily from the shore. Similar caves will be found on the coast near Creevagh Head on the west shore of Lacken Bay. ~~The caves appear quite large but it is impossible at present to explore them. I cannot trace anybody who has explored them at any time.~~

## MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

## OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Castlelacken, a mansion of considerable size and at one time the residence of Sir Charles Knox, lies now in ruin on the left side of the road near the Catholic parish church at Lacken. It is said that the mansion was erected on the site of an ancient castle of the MacEgans'.

Castlelacken seems to have had no important historic or other associations and subsequent to the acquisition of the lands by the Land Commission, the old building is now on the lands of Mr T.A. Loughney.