

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Kilmairn

TOWN OR VILLAGE Ballinrobe PARISH Ballinrobe COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Ballinrobe (37 townlands, including Inishroche and Killoshrine), is situated on the eastern shore of Lough Mask. A portion of it also lies to the south and south-east tip of Lough Cora. The area has its greatest length west to east - about 6 miles; north to south it is some 5 1/2 miles.

Apart from the lake shore areas the district is not scenically rich, being undulating terrain of tillage, pasture and timber patches.

From Ballinrobe to Lough Mask is 3 1/2 miles by a good road. The town lies in the approx. centre south of the parish and on the River Robe

GEOLOGY

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

The area is wholly of a limestone formation - the community is chiefly engaged in agriculture. (contd. on page 2)

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.

Topography Page 2

(bark on Kesh) which flows west to "the meads". Ballinacree has the signs of an old town and its streets show many hatched dwellings. Trees along the river bank, and a fine church in well-kept grounds add much to the town's appearance. There is a $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile-long, artificially constructed walk along the River Kesh which provides pleasant recreation. Access to the walk off High St. - starting under the first iron bridge (which formerly offered a shortcut from main st. but which is now condemned and closed) - on under the stone bridge which once led to the military barracks - and ending at the second iron bridge (which is also condemned and closed) ~~is known as~~ known as "the Salmon Walk". At one time the walk was continued further but because of the closed bridge is now disused.

Entering the town from the Kilmaine road the higher ground gives a good view of the Connemara and Partey mountains to the west beyond Lough Corrib and meads, and a distant glimpse of the Nephin range and the Portlow foothills, with portions of the Ox range to the north. Continuing past Ballinacree to "the meads" - the latter ranges drop from view while the Connemara and Partey peaks are in full vision just in front. Having crossed the two Kesh River bridges at the river's separation - a journey of a mile and an half, with the wooded acres of Lough Demesne on the right, leads to a fork - the right-hand turn to Lashlough on the lake shore with wooded country, a bay of the lake with Inishakee, Inishdunna directly opposite and Carrane Demesne woods to the south, make pleasant scenery. A little way to the north a field walk leads to the mouth of the River Kesh in a scenic setting of lake and wood and rock shore with Little Hag on its tiny island and the mountains rising all along the far shore.

Returning to the main road the trip may be continued to Inishdunna, small but scenic. From it one from the Carrane mainland shore the lake in its mountain setting opens up to full view. There are numerous small islands of which Derelish, in this pencil, is one in near view.

The Lough Corrib shore, 3 miles north of Ballinacree, has some woods and is pleasing of aspect - Partey woods on its western shore, and further west the Partey mountains, with to the distant north the Nephin range - offer a good view.

Ballinacree, situated as it is, forms a very good center for