

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

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF BURRISHOODA?  
TOWN OR VILLAGE Lish Turk. PARISH Cape Island COUNTY Mayo.

## TOPOGRAPHY

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

Situated about 9 miles from Cape Island, Lish Turk lies seven miles out from the nearest land. The area is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. It rises boldly from the sea on all sides with excellent scenery in the west; the highest point being 629 feet.

## GEOLOGY

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

The coastline is rich in long narrow creeks with precipitous sides ending in caves. The soil is rich in the sheltered valleys, the remainder consisting of mountainous land, bog and maritime dunes. With the division of the coast, breaking through

~~MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES~~  
~~OF IMPOSING CHARACTER~~

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

The island is drained by a number of small streams. The population which is approximately 100 live by farming and fishing. ~~There~~ Cape Island is avoided for grazing & cattle are left here throughout the winter months.

## ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raths, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Dun Ballycragga:— This fort lies on the  
 banks of Ballycragga and Ballykees. The  
 remains of this fort built into walls into  
 every projecting rock at the head of the  
 deep ditches, 100 feet up, are fenced to make  
 spot where the walls continued eastward, at  
 its narrowest point, by a strong curve of wall  
 with blocks of 4 to 5 feet long. The ends are  
 now practically levelled. The ramparts were  
 from 4 to 6 feet high, and 6 to 8 feet  
 thick along the flanks. The portion to the  
 north where preserved once about 5 feet high  
 & average outside. It is composed of large  
 blocks with their smaller ends out, and is in  
 a single section, with two faces and large  
 filling. It has two faces in the face of the  
 wall resembling gateways. The lower wall which  
 disappeared is in parts 6 to 8 feet high. It  
 was of two or three sections near the gateway,  
 but only two remain. The sections near the  
 gateway are 4 feet 6 inches and 3 feet

see page 1

thick. The outer faces were of large stones, and the sections in a low ledges of different heights. The gateway was in the middle of the outer wall. It is 53 feet 8 inches outside and 3 feet 10 inches inside. The passage was 12 feet long to the outer section of the wall; it is now levelled to the foundations. The passage runs down a creag, with natural steps. The first step is 10 feet long and 3 feet high; the next 7 feet and 3 feet. Thence by several feet ledges to a narrow path down the south-west flank. This descent is not alone better but it is steep and almost overgrown.

The gate enclosed by the wall is 17 1/2 feet east and west, varying, as it is a long oval in plan.

There is a legend in connection with the tower which says that it was built by pirates, who made their galleys in the creek below, hidden by the rocks from view seen by passing ships. This pirate crew were the Loch Dares in Ireland see page 17

who knew how to make the bios lockharrack,  
 a priceless drink made from leather blown.  
 The pot was suspended and taken by the  
 Drisk, who killed the inmates except one  
 old Dene and his son, offering to spare  
 the captives if they told the secret of the  
 bios, or, as some say, the hiding place of  
 their treasures, the plunder of many places  
 during long years. The old Dene, fearing  
 that the boy might be tortured or tempted  
 into betrayal, offered to tell if his son  
 were put to death, so that none of his  
 kin might see his treachery. This done,  
 the father took himself from his guards,  
 and ran to the deep cloven carrying his  
 secret to Odin.

Dun Ballyheer:- This dun occupied a low,  
 craggy knoll with a flat top. The wall was  
 close to the edge, and so side traceable. The  
 gart was of irregular outline 117 feet  
 east and west, and about 50 feet wide  
 north and south. See page 117

A narrow runs along the Eastern beach of the North Side. The gateway was of large blocks; it faced the East, and a single stone, 4 feet 6 inches long, passed through the entire depth of the wall to form the base of the South pier, being at the moment about 3 feet over the debris and 16 to 18 inches thick. The northern side has two blocks 3 feet 8 inches by 29 inches by 12 inches and two feet 4 inches by 29 inches by 15 inches, leaving a passage 2 feet 4 inches wide. Most of the wall was 6 feet thick, with base blocks approximately 2 1/2 feet long, but very little trace remains even of the foundation.

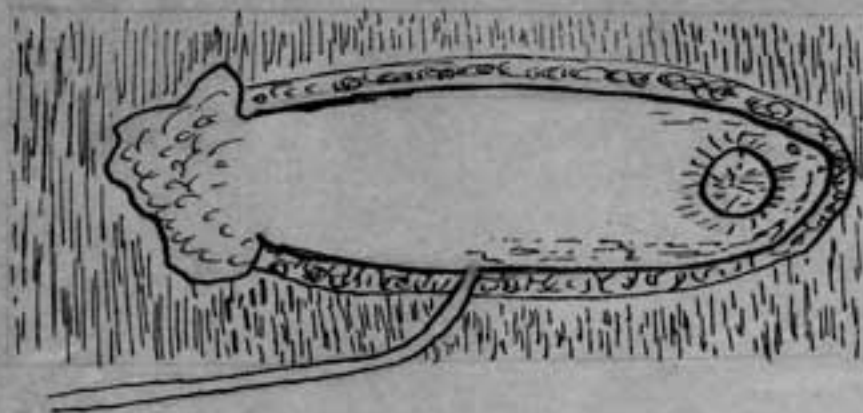
House - Ditch: - (1) At Durnasharganbeg, on the west bank of the stream let falling into Oaghascaddam, is a nearly levelled house-ditch. It lies against a rock on the west side. The ditch - western town is oblong, the ditch - eastern buried in debris; the northern per page 13

and eastern cells are circular, about 7 feet across inside.

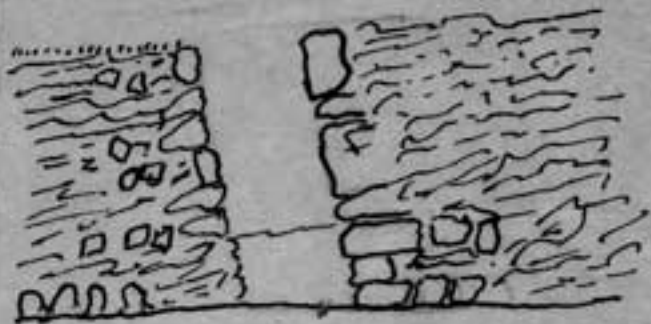
ii. Almost level from the northern Alleneehoo cliff, opposite the bay between it and Dronore Head, is a fine circular house. It is decayed with debris and partly re-built; the foundations are still preserved and the northern cell remains up to the spring of the torbessa logs. It is about 35 feet long north and south by 17 feet wide, with polygonal cells, the central being 8 feet by 12 ft inside. The two northern cells are very small, being 4 feet by 3 feet, and 4 feet by 6 feet.

iii. There was another site on Baley Linn.

ITA/17(30)



DUN BALLYCRAGGA.



GATE.

INISHTURK ISLAND.