

(Mayo N)

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FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.BARONY OF ErrisTOWN OR VILLAGE ----- PARISH Kilcommen-Erris COUNTY Mayo (North)

TOPOGRAPHY

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

This, the north-western corner of the County Mayo, is perhaps the most isolated and unexplored (by the tourist) portion of Ireland. The frightfully bad roads ~~hereabouts~~ are most discouraging to motorists and cyclists, and I have heard of many instances of tourists turning back from Belderg on this account alone. The North Coast Road leaves the coast proper at Belderg and pursues an inland course through barren moorland, uninteresting but for the splendid view of the mountains on both sides, until it emerges on the coast once more at Barnatra (Belmullet parish). At Glensamey, another road leads north-westwards to Carrowteige and Rospert. **Good Accommodation** is unobtainable at either place but they may be selected as the most convenient centres from which to explore the wonderful cliff scenery on the north coast.

GEOLOGY

*Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.**Cont'd Page 3.*

The eastern portion of the parish contains the evidences of old mine workings. The copper mines have not been in use now for perhaps half a century

Principal features are the magnificent cliffs which range the full length of the northern coast line, unbroken but for the narrow creeks of Pertacley and Perturlin. These wild rugged cliffs, in places, rise perpendicularly to a height of 800 feet and over and are very frequently indented with fissures and amazing alleys through which a boat may pass with ease. There are numerous caves of which the most noteworthy is the "Diamond Cave" between Perturlin and Pertacley.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

Cont'd Page 3.

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

None

GEOLOGY Cont'd.

It is sometimes very difficult to gain access to the Diamond Cave which is approached by an alley or fissure in the very high, steep cliffs.

Owing to the bad weather which generally prevailed and the rough seas on the best of days, I could not approach sufficiently near to the alley which I believe, leads to a narrow cove and thence into the Diamond Cave, reputed to be a most rare phenomenon. I am told that there are three or more chambers, the walls of each presenting a dazzling sight in the gorgeous scintillations of a thousand facets.

The Cave is situated about half way between Pertacley and Perturlin; boats may be procured at either place for the purpose of viewing this or the many other wonderful sights on these cliffs.

In the opinion of many, the cliff scenery on this coast is superior to that in any other part of Ireland. Amongst the most impressive spots is Meista, a seaward spur of Glinsk Mountain (1002 ft.). This majestic cliff is almost 800 feet above sea level and nearby is the Lady Cove which derives its name from the curious resemblance to a lady which has been carved by nature on the face of the cliff. This is convenient to Belderg, in Ballycastle parish.

From Meista to Benwee Head stretches a marvellous range of almost perpendicular cliffs from 600 to 829 feet (Benwee) in height and overhanging the sea in places. The only breaks are the many steep-walled alleys and the pretty creeks of Perturlin and Pertacley.

Fert-like prementeries and many large caves, a considerable number of the latter being inhabited by seals, are among the many interesting features of the cliffs.

Near Srahataggle, on the eastern side of the parish, are the old workings from which copper ore was extracted up to thirty or forty years ago.

TOPOGRAPHY Cont'd.

Ressport is convenient to several miles of beautiful strands, pretty Srufadacen Bay and by crossing the ferry, we may continue right round the western coast to the little village of Inver, keeping the east shore of the Mullet in sight all the time.

Carrewteige is then, the most suitable centre from which to tramp the cliffs on the north coast, to visit the wonderful strand at Riaree and Kilgalligan, the pretty, secluded creeks of Pertacley and Perturlin. Almost any one of the many lofty peaks provide a splendid view of the long, craggy coast-line and in the far distance, the mountains of Donegal are often clearly visible.

Descending the steep hill from Carrewteige to Kilgalligan Strand, a charming view of Broad Haven Bay is unfolded. The long, rugged coast of the Mullet Peninsula as far as Erris Head and on the near side, the frequently indented cliff shore make a really beautiful picture.

~~My most vivid recollection of Broad Haven Bay will be that of the fine summer's evening when from Gleagad Hill on the Pellathemas side, I had a wonderful view of the sunset, a massive ball of golden glory, as it hung as though artificially suspended to barely touch the placid waters of the Bay.~~

Carrewteige is forty four miles from Ballina and twenty from Belmullet; Pellathemas is about forty miles from Ballina and eleven from Belmullet.

Col'Brien
17/7/43