

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Gallen

TOWN OR VILLAGE Attymess PARISH Attymess COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish has as its eastern boundary the county line between Mayo and Sligo. From here its greatest length west to the river Mayo east bank is about five and an half miles. This east to west line would run through Attymess village and the parish's greatest north and south length would be 1 1/2 M. south and 2 1/4 M. north of this village.

Taking the parish as a whole its scenery, while not outstanding, has nevertheless a diversity of mountain and low raggy-belted hills, of moorland and flat peat expanse and of long green hillsides - with here and there small lakes and patches of woodland. (Contd.)

GEOLOGY

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

In the south-east the parish has the acid igneous granitic belt of Slieve Donard. This belt runs ~~from the east~~ south-west from the 'gap' just west of Lough Talt and continues in a fairly regular band to the south-east corner of the parish where there is a full break in the formation; further south-west it appears again and veering south in a wider and irregular belt it continues to a point some miles north-east of Lough Talt... Adjoining this igneous belt on the north-west side is a formation of metamorphic rocks, phyllite, gneiss etc. This latter belt covers an area between Lough Kallyness's east shore to about a mile east and from roughly a mile south-east of the lake to Attymess at the S.E. lake corner. The metamorphic belt narrows **MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES** to a few hundred yards at Attymess from where it widens out west and **OF IMPOSING CHARACTER** south-west towards the main bed of Lough Talt. West of this road and to the west is peat formation. The parish west of Kallyness lake and S.W. Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?

none.

Topography. Page 2.

In the west and south-west of the district the Sheel Gamp range of the Or mountains rises to peaks which reach a height of 1200 feet. Here there is a wild and rugged stretch of mountain and high moorland. Below the range, and running from a few miles north of Attyneass village to a mile south of it where they swing west to the Connifinglas road, are the foot-hills, craggy, scarping and heath-filled. Ballynease Lake lies just below these hills at Attyneass and here the combination of rocky slopes, lake and village with its church on the hill, and the green of lowland across the water to the west, makes an attractive picture. The old abbey ruin, perched on the hill at the far shore's edge, adds a pleasant touch of contrast. This view is best enjoyed from the roadside at Millen graveyard, not an half mile from Attyneass.

Further north are Bough's Castle and Keshdy, small and pleasantly set amongst the long low hills which border the (rock) grassy and arable portions of the area. The small lake of Currower with its tiny plantation enhancing it lies beside the road to Ballina and brightens the landscape.

The parish west has the Moy, broad, deep and smooth-flowing. Here there is a large tract of bog-flat as the surface of the river itself. This is in Connifinglas, which townland borders the Moy. Near the school-house on the main road is Crockig Ithara, a hump of rock which rises from the midst of an F. L. C. plantation of tall trees and verdant foliage, to a height of 326 feet. From its summit there is a view which stretches far down the valley of the Moy to Ballina... on the other side of the river and a little to the north-west... Mount Jallen with its acres of woodland... just across the Moy the groves of Caskinaw... away to the west is Kephin and the gleam of Bough Conn - south-west and south - the valley of the Moy continues in the near view... the towering chimney of Forford's mill and the parkland hills. Just beneath is Carronkeshilly Lake

also in this parish, and near it the lakes of Boco and
Kallyeng.

Cycle rides and Hikes: Taking Ballina as the nearest accommodation
centre and starting point the cyclist (or hiker) should leave town
by Ardara, going out the Rosminan road (d. road main) for
about 2 1/2 miles. The second turn to the right leads to Cussewera
in the parish after approx. 1 3/4 M. The road bends to the left
and leads on straight past the little lake of Cussewera, through
greyfoot (southern lvs). At short distance further turn sharp right
(Agham stone). Turn left after a few hundred yards and
continue the road to Attyneass by the north and east shores
of Kallyneass lake. (View from east shore from road, Fort Hills on
left). At Attyneass take first turn left past school and
continue by through rugged scenery for 1 1/4 M, then turn right
and follow to the main road Ballina/Swiford road at
Bansinglas, 2 M. (rugged scenery all the way). Turn to right on the
main road and follow for about a mile (Carrig stone, view, right)
then past Carrig stone lake and into Ballina through Ardara
6 M. A total distance of nearly 20 miles but with a few
diversions the main features of the parish can be viewed
on the trip.