

(Mayo West)

17A/11/0(1)
8 FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Carra

TOWN OR VILLAGE none PARISH Islandeady COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish of Islandeady (Oileán Éadan - or "Oileán Éadan") is situated between the towns of Castlebar (east), and Westport (west). Newport also lies a few miles west of the parish and the main Castlebar/Westport, Castlebar/Newport roads run through the area. Its greatest length is about 10 1/2 miles directly N. to S. from a point slightly south of Beltra Lake to Kilmore the most southerly parish point. Its greatest breadth east to west is about 5 miles.

In general the district's surface is made up of mountain country.

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc. (contd. on page 2)

Jakob's geological map shows the northern (Craughmore) part of the parish as Palaeozoic {Devonian (Dingle beds - lower old red. Adjoining this formation and in a few isolated small belts is Old Red Sandstone (upper) in same geological division as the Dingle beds. Elsewhere the formation is of limestone, drift covered on peat capped. Evidence of its age can be seen in several places where boulders have been deposited as they moved down the valleys e.g. in Cornamona near the Castlebar/Newport road where is a large striated boulder on a slight hillock. Several low lumpy hills in the area have drumlin-like appearances.

See note below

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

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

none

"Old Red Sandstone - Devonian - Palaeozoic" should read
"Mica Schist, Phyllite, Gneiss etc. - metamorphic rocks"

(Extract from ~~the~~ D. Faughnan's list filed with his letter of 13/9/45)

Topography Page 2.

ugged hills, small valleys of heath sides and tillage fields, lakes and occasional timber patches, bog stretches, and, in the southern parish portion an area which is undulating tillied terrain.

The northern part of the district is ruggedly scenic. There is Beltra lake from whose western shore rises Coaghmagh (1412) and Bineen (1078) peaks - western limits of that southern portion of the Neptun range, which runs west from Lough Lann. The road running north from Glenisland gas. stks. skirts the eastern shore of Beltra lake for about 3 miles and affords an most enjoyable view through scenically beautiful country. Glenisland Hills, highest point 734, lie to the south shore of Lough Beltra. The glen itself is ruggedly picturesque. All of the northern parish area lies in rugged folds often enclosing tiny lakes and many mountain streams. Beltra lake via Glenisland is distant some 8 miles from Castlebar. About 3 miles from the town on Newport road - turn right. From Newport to the lake at Glenisland is perhaps 6 miles. On the Castlebar/Newport road and in the parish is the well-known Oss Bridge, often called by its Latin equivalent - "Pons asinorum". South of this road lie Castlebar Lough (Lough Lannagh), the western end of which is in Inlandeady parish, Inlandeady lake, and several tiny water sheds. Ratins wood on Lough Lannagh; affords a contrasting park. The lakes are prettily set amidst previous undulating tillage and pasture lands and are best viewed when travelling by the Castlebar/Westport road which gives glimpses of them but off which a journey of about a mile leads to the church and few houses that comprise Inlandeady. [Parish has no town or village proper].

Views: In the northern parish area - striking views of the Mayo mountain ranges may be had from the high points that West of all would be Rat from Coaghmagh from whose summit (1412) the vista would take in Loughs Mack and Linn, Camanara and Partey mountains, Sleefy Hills, Coagh Patrick, Westport, Clew Bay and its numerous islets, Clare Island and the Achill peaks, and in near view north - Neptun horn, Neptun Beg and Lesser Heights. Lough Lann and Cullin and that also in near view - and to the north east the Oss range with east and south east the view stretching far outside the county. Directly below lies Beltra Lough.

Bineen (1078) offers, except for the northern north-eastern

Topography Page 3.

vistas, a view similar to Craaghmagh.

The Glenisland hills give a rich panorama to the west, north-west and south-west, of Clew Bay, islets, Clew Island, Achill mountains, Craagh Patrick and attendant hills - Parky Hills and the peaks of Joyce's country near the Corrib's northern shore.

A fine view and one easily obtained is that from Shearn, the fairy hill a mile and an half from Westport to the left of the main road to Castlebar. (Donovan's letter relates the tradition that this fairy hill (384) was the first sight of Ireland obtained by mariners from America to Westport.) Shearn is said to be the first glimpse afforded of "the green sod of Erin" to sailors from America to Westport. From its cavern top the view takes in Westport in the valley beneath, Clew Bay, Clew Island, the Reek, Parky mountains, Achill ranges and the Neptun peaks. Just east are the Inlandeady + Castlebar lakes and farther east the view goes over fields and plain to the horizon.