

(Mayo in.)

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FORM A.

# I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

## NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Gallen

TOWN OR VILLAGE Yoxford PARISH Yoonane COUNTY Mayo

### TOPOGRAPHY

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

The parish has for its western boundary the east bank of the River Moy. In the south it has the northern Moy bank for much of its limits. Elsewhere its boundaries are ill-defined - the sea being somewhat, in outline, like a letter E but without the middle stroke and having its top strokes longer and splaying off to the north-east. Yoxford town stands on the east Moy bank and the parish extends 3 miles directly north of the town and 3 miles south of it to Killylahan Bridge. East of Yoxford the sea is only 2 miles wide. In the south

### GEOLOGY

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

The parish has limestone, metamorphic and igneous formations. Yoxford town lies on a drift-covered limestone tract. North-east of the town and commencing at Church Park is an igneous granite belt which continues north to the valley of Glendaduff - which valley constitutes a break in the formation which is that of the Slieve Gamp or Ox chain. Just to the east of Yoxford there is a further igneous granite area and this, together with a smaller igneous portion to the west of it, abuts on the north side, a narrow metamorphic quartzite belt which runs west from Lough Muck to end at the main road some distance south of Yoxford. South of this latter belt is drift-covered limestone formation.

### 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

It widens to 5 miles from east to west. The northern part, corresponding to the top-stroke of the 'E' bears north-east for a length of six miles from the W. May's east bank. In the north the parish has a good many small and irregular projections into its neighbouring parish.

The scenery here is of a rugged character and mountains and rocky, heath-covered slopes predominate.

The central and industrial spot in the parish is Youford. It lies along the River Moy which foams down under the bridge amidst boulders and rocks and gives power to the Providence Mills, whose buildings, and those of the Convent beside it, are the most interesting features of the town. Generally the town has a not unpleasing appearance and this is enhanced by the many tall trees that form a background to the houses. Part of Youford is in another parish. (And also disused).

Rising up behind Youford to the south, is a craggy, rock-strewn mountain area; brown and grey of heather and boulders sometimes pleasantly relieved by patches of young plantation. Here also is Lough Inlets, a position of which lies in the parish. The lake is set in a small rugged glen at an altitude of some few hundred feet.

From the highest of the peaks here there is a view which, given a clear sunny day, is magnificent. There is a rough road leading over the mountain and the climb is not difficult, altogether hardly a mile from Youford - the route being past Youford dispensary (St. Patrick's post-pont) and straight on.

The peak is 642 ft. high. From this altitude one looks down on Youford just below, its trees and roof-tops overtopped by the tall factory chimneys, while the spire of one church and the tower of another lend contrast. Beside the town the Moy flows, broad and deep. Looking out over Youford, the view stretches northwards down the broad valley of the Moy - the river's course can be seen for miles. The woods of Mount Falcon and Collesman add much to the scene. 'Birch & Oak' stands out predominantly near the river's

edge which along the valley's eastern edge are the foot hills of Attymass and in nearer view, the mountains of Glendaduff, Rayhallagh and Churchpark, in the parish's north-east corner.

The panorama to the north-west, west and south-west is best of all. The Lough Cullin and much of Lough Loney, with Drummin Wood on the former lake's north-east shore and the Porteen hills and woods coming to the water's edge at its west; Keshin more towering up behind the foot hills; Keshin Beg further off; Coaghmoyle and further peaks; form a splendid panorama. Far away beyond Lough Loney can be seen the out line of the Ballycastle and north Mayo mountains. These are 25 miles from the right-reef vantage point..... The Coaghmoyle foot hills are dotted with white homesteads - some tiny lakes come into view on the lowlands beneath - Lough Cullin is one.

Just beneath, in nearest view, the River Moy winds in a serpentine fashion round the base of the mountain. The railway bridge across the 'gap' at Lough Cullin's south shore adds a modern touch. Queen Hill (200') rises above the lowland below.

A little more to the south-west Coagh Patrick rises up its most lofty conical head; the Sleepy Hills are nearby. Further south are the Porteen mountains and in between them and the view-point the lowlands stretch away, patches of woods and dots of hundreds of homes certain speckling the area.

Directly south, in near view, the island mountain slopes of Clon Yassow spring first to the gaze. Slightly south east one looks out on lowlands stretching to the horizon with a similar landscape to the south east. Thousands of homesteads dot the plain - Mullick Round Tower dominates it. The River Moy can be easily followed - from this peak one can see its course from within a few miles of Ballina to its exit from the County Mayo.

In near view to the east is Lough Loney. Beyond it the Callow Hills.

This is the best view in the parish (as in the basin). The peaks has no name but is in Kilmore lowland.

From the mountain above Church Park a good view may be had but it will not be as all-embracing as that from the mountain in Kilmore. At Church Park is ~~Bellona~~ a narrow - the windy gap - a turn on the road where a breeze always blows.

Glendaduff is a rugged valley in the north-east parish corner. The mountains rise up to heights of over a thousand feet each side of the glen and Glendaduff Lake nestles at the base. The yellow River drains away from the lake and, flowing south, then west round the mountain, it ~~drains~~ falls to the bay.

A cycle ride or hike from Yaxford to Church Park and north by the foot of the mountain will lead into Glendaduff (carved crosses). The return journey can be made by following the road through the valley west to Keshmone and coming out on the main Bellina/Swift road and turning off through Kinnanny and into Yaxford. Total distance of about 15 miles.