

(Mays Post)

4 FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Clannore

TOWN OR VILLAGE Balla PARISH Balla a Manulla COUNTY Mayo

TOPOGRAPHY

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

This is a large parish. Its area is 29 sq. miles, 618 acres, 2 woods and 18 up-patches, of which 557 acs. 35 patches are under water. It is situated some 11 miles from Castlebar (W.S.W.), 4 from Rallyway (N), 5 from Kiltinagh (E), and 6 from Clannore (S.E.).

In general, the area is not one of scenic distinction, being mainly featured by grass lands, timbered belts, lakelets, and village - the terrain is rolling - low level - except to the north where there is a semi-mountain stretch running N/S for a few miles and roughly bisecting the north-west end of the parish.

GEOLOGY

(CONTD. ON PAGE 2.)

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

The area is completely of limestone except for a small hill range to the north (highest point 648') which is of the millstone, grit and shale (carboniferous) series. The land is suited, for the most part, to cultivation and the parish is almost fully an agricultural one.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Sacred Heart College at Ballinacred situated some 3 1/2 M. (by road) S.W. of Balla. College is conducted by the African Mission Fathers. Houses annually about 40 students who, having obtained their Intermediate Certs., are sent to main local house for educational and religious completion before entering the mission fields of Nigeria and Liberia.

The building is a rectangular, three-story edifice. Apart from a modern wing added in 1932 the construction is of brown stone. No ornamental featuring. Total size of college now is perhaps 90' x 40'.

With the house goes about 400 acres of grass lands, village, and timbered belts. There are no libraries, art collections etc.

This was the residence of the Blake family from the year 1827 to 1908 in which year it was donated to the African Mission by its last owner General Blake. Later a Count of the Holy See. The Blake family is a noble one.