

BARONY OF CLANMORRIS

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TOWN OF CLAREMORRISPARISH OF KILCOLMANCO. MAYOTOPOGRAPHY

The parish of Kilcolman (all-church: and Colman, a saint) comprises a fairly compact area which runs directly north from Claremorris in a narrow strip, to Lilligbo Lake, a distance of some 7 miles. It extends slightly south-east of Claremorris for about 1 1/2 miles. Its greatest width is about 1/2 miles.

The area does not hold scenery of a distinctive character. Generally it offers undulating country with patches of timber, green pasture land and tillage, and some bog stretches. There are a few lakes - the largest of which is Lilligbo Lake, partly in the parish. Another is Lough Ranarragh, some few miles north-east of Claremorris, and at which is a diving board for many local bathers who utilize the lake in the swimming season. A small portion of the upper stretch of the Robe River touches the parish towards the south.

Highest point in the parish lies some 4 miles north of Claremorris, between Barnycarsell and Kilcolman Townlands, and by the main road to Knock a few miles further on. The elevation is 450 ft. but for some strange reason there is a popular conception ^{throughout} that this point is higher than Coagh Patrick. By ascending the rising ground by main road from Claremorris and turning left past Kilcolman Church a good view is obtained. The slopes of Slieve Harrow are in view to the north-west, to the north and north-east in far view are the Neepin range, the Foxford hills and the Ot

mountains. Between Kice and the vantage point is a wide level area with bog, pasture fields, tillage and patches of heath growth. To the east the view goes to the horizon over undulating terrain. To the west is the conical head of Croagh Patrick and the Pasture mountains - rolling country lies between. It is said that on a clear day, Clare Island can be seen - its lights quite visible by night. North-west in farthest view are the mountains to north and west of Mallassanay.

Clansmassis derives its name from the Mac Morris family of Norman settlers ("Clare Claurie Morris" - "the board (bridge) of the Clan of Morris"). It is a busy country town with serving a wide area and has an important rail junction which takes the trains on the Dublin/Westport, Dublin/Ballina, Sligo/Limerick routes; with branch line to Ballinacree.

GEOLOGY

The area is totally of limestone formation - in places peat-capped. The district outside the town of Clansmassis is purely agricultural, the land for the most part being suitable for tillage and pasture.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES.

NONE.