

HISTORIC SITES

*Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.*

The French General, Humbert and his army passed through Crossmolina en route for Castlebar in 1798. An avenue in the Inniscoe demesne is yet known as the "French Walk". It seems that at that time this avenue formed part of the main Crossmolina/Castlebar road.

The Deel Bridge, or rather the old bridge that preceded the present one, at Crossmolina, is regarded as the site of the hanging of a local patriot named Walshe who aided the Franco-Irish forces. Following the failure of the '98 Insurrection, this man was captured and put to death by British forces.

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

NONE

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

*Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public ?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.*

None known.

Report submitted September 24th; please note following corrections.

Antiquities - Abbey of the Blessed Virgin at Abbeytown, Crossmolina.

An article appears in the Journal of the ^{CORK} Historical and Archaeological Society, Vol. XLVI (1941), in which Rev. [^]John Ryan M.A., deals at some length with this institution, its origin and connection with the priory of St. Thomas the Martyr, at Ballybeg, near Buttevant, Co. Cork.

Fr. Ryan, who is an authority on such matters, asserts that the priory at Crossmolina was founded by the Anglo-Normans for the Canons Regular of the Order of St. Augustine, that it was entirely dependent upon the mother house at Ballybeg and that proof has been found of its existence in the year 1306 A.D. Both houses were dissolved under Henry VIII.

Errew Abbey.

X Fr. Ryan has also compiled much authentic information in connection with this foundation. Reliable information is practically unobtainable in this quarter and since considerable importance is attached to Errew, I would respectfully suggest that Fr. Ryan be approached for the necessary particulars.

Historic Sites.

Much credence has been given to the opinion expressed in some popular books to the effect that the French under General Humbert, passed through Crossmolina en route for Castlebar, during the Insurrection of '98. I have it now on reliable authority that the troops did not pass through the village but that they kept to the old road along the shores of Lough Conn, thus avoiding Crossmolina although passing within a mile or so of the village.

The alleged hanging of the man Walsh at the Deel Bridge, although generally accepted as true, I now believe to be caused by a twisting of the truth since the man was hanged in Ballina.

My informant is Rev. Fr. Harte who heard the facts from the late Rev. Dean Kelly, a native of the district who died several years ago at the age of ninety five; the Dean was well acquainted with all the local occurrences of '98 and had first hand information from an uncle of his.

Mansions, Castles and Estates.

Mention should be made of Gortnor Abbey Convent, run by the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.

Situated in one of the most pretty spots on the shore of Lough Conn, one mile from Crossmolina, the old residence of the Ormes family has largely improved and many additions and alterations have been made.

Cause Officer
Surveyor 27/9/42.