

(Mayo N) 8

I. T. A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES, HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Tirawley

~~XXXXXX~~ VILLAGE Crossmolina PARISH Crossmolina COUNTY Mayo (North)

TOPOGRAPHY

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

To the lover of scenic beauty in many and varied forms, this countryside may well be recommended. ~~Crossmolina, which in size, is on the border-line between a large village and a very small town, has a population of about seven hundred and is nicely situated on the banks of the River Deel, within seven miles of Ballina and twenty two of Castlebar. On entering the village for the first time, the visitor is immediately impressed by the old world ~~walled~~ wheel-pump which was until recent years, the sole water supply of the inhabitants and is now disused, except in the sense that it constitutes an unfeeling source of amusement for the children of the village.~~

~~Both Catholic and Protestant (G.I.) churches occupy commanding and picturesque positions and although devoid of any permanent~~

GEOLOGY

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

Continued A2.

The district is mainly of lower limestone formation. No peculiarities of a geological nature occur.

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES

OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

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

Inniscoe Demesne.

Three miles south of Crossmolina, on the direct road to Pontoon and Castlebar, lies the beautiful wooded property of Major M. Pratt. This fine demesne was owned by the Jackson family for generations before it passed into the hands of the present owner's father not very many years ago.

The mansion, though large and well appointed and in excellent repair, possesses no striking architectural features and is indeed, quite plain in design.

Over two acres near the house and at the rere of the spacious yards, have been very tastefully cultivated, being given largely to the growth of fruit, vegetables and flowers. A large glasshouse is devoted to plants.

In the stone archway which joins the two sections of garden, some dressed stones, removed at some time from Errew Abbey, have been inserted.

The lands of Inniscoe frange the waters of Lough Conn and many exquisite views are obtainable.

There is no library or art collection worthy of mention and Major Pratt dislikes the intrusion of sightseeing visitors.

~~form of popular indoor entertainment, it is a very pleasant and homely village.~~

Every road and laneway leading from Crossmolina, possesses a peculiar charm and interest of its own; all lead to scenes of beauty and grandeur, and here the ambitious artist, be he poet or painter, may surpass success. In every direction spread magnificent panoramas of woodland and pasture, brown bogland and towering mountains, while within a mile of Crossmolina, the gleaming waters of Lough Conn lend an unique enchantment to the view.

The Deel, before entering ^{the} Lough ~~Conn~~, flows through the entire breadth of the parish almost equally dividing this extensive territory in two parts. On the southern and western boundaries, the stately Nephin Mountains set a limit to the immense extent of moor and bogland; in this area will be found a host of small pretty lakes.

Crossmolina is situated within a mile of the north western shore of Lough Conn which is over nine miles long, and between three and four in breadth; the lake, with its numerous little bays and wooded islets, presents a powerful attraction in the diversity and choice of many charming vistas.

~~It is a great pity that the roads in this district are not more deserving of the name, since those roads other than the very few main roads are of very poor quality; this may be said of the majority of "second class roads in North Mayo.~~

Mansions Castles and Estates, Cont'd.

Knockglass.

This estate, which is about a mile from Crossmolina on the Ballina road, was the residence of the Paget family until in recent years, it passed into the hands of Mr Patrick Rowe, "Eden", Ballina.

The house, which is large and rather plain, has been let, with the garden, to Mr O'Kane, a Land Commission official and the remainder of the land is tilled by Mr Rowe, under the management of his popular uncle, Mr Michael Rowe, Crossmolina.

The winding River Deel flows by the house on its way to Lough Conn and the chief item of interest here is the fine walled garden of two and a half acres. Fruit is grown on a very extensive scale for the market and visitors will be shown round without obligation.

*Land Office, Sligo
Sept. 24 1882*

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 Historical and Archaeological Society, Vol. XLVI (1941), in which Rev. ^{Cork} 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.

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.