I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

Barony of

Town or Village: Adare
Parish: Adare
County: Limerick

TOPOGRAPHY

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

Adare, "the ford of the Lake," is one of the most attractive and interesting spots in Ireland. Though lacking the noble settings of mountains or any wide vistas such as we find elsewhere in the country, further north or east, it has a peculiar wealth of quiet beauty apart altogether from its picturesque mansions which alone would lead anyone to visit it.

GEOLGY

Brief note on unusual geological features, such as caves, springs, etc.

The remarkable caves and springs along the bank of the river; the smooth well-kept fields; the waterfalls playing on the surf ace; the leap of the pool to be seen in plenty; the still reaches above the weirs and the chaos of tumbling waters below

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES OF IMPOSSING CHARACTER


Adare Hall, Seat of Earl of Desmond and Mount Earl. The founder of the Adare branch of the family was Richard O'Brien who acquired some of the Desmond Estates in 1683. Originally they were settled at Kilmealagh having been driven from their lands by the 17th. Their living with other tribes, descended from Altoll O'Brien, King of Munster in 3rd century.

Oh, sweet Adare, Oh, lovely home; Oh, soft retreat of silver shadow.

No summer sun, nor morning gale;
I'm hailed a scene more softly tender. (J. Gilpin)
ANTiquities

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Tombs, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Baths, Moats, Tunnels or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

The White or Lintinian Abbey. This is now the R. B. Church. Having been restored and presented to the Parish by Edwin 3rd Earl J. Dunmane. The stately low old tower, south wall of nave and north wall of chancel, portions of the domestic quarters, and a curious low circular turret which was the friary house (this latter is at the western angle of convent garden) remain. The rest of the building dates only from the restoration. The original stones however were used. The cabals of the arches under the tower and the cornice along the south wall with its gargoyles are worthy of note. A very beautiful three-light window in E. was replaced at restoration. The convent of mercy at rest of church was originally the domestic quarters. In the north I convent are many Romanesque heads. In the vestry of R. B. Church is a set of wood carvings, 12 in all, dating from early 16th Century, depicting the life of our Lady. These are well worth noting. The stepped battlements to E. will remain.

The Black or Augustinian Abbey. This is now the Protestant Parish Church and has been less altered than the above. It too was restored and presented to parish by Edwin 3rd Earl J. Dunmane in 1807. The tower was erected at a much later period than the building itself. The three original gothic arches of the S. aisle were removed at restoration and replaced by two new ones with a woman capital. The stepped battlements to E. wall were also removed. The church has many interesting features, chiefly architecture. The windows are mostly plain with the exception of the E. window of the aisle. The E. window is very much out of line and must have been one of the first 7 its kind. It opens being about 6 ins. to right of the angle formed by the eave columns. The cornice along S. wall is a series of carved lions which are curious and interesting. The beautiful tilled footpath beside church leads to cell and three recesses and in each
CURIOSITIES

Curious objects, structures, monuments, landmarks, sights, etc. For example, Wishing stones or "chairs," freaks of nature (i.e., grotesque rock formations)—in fact, any scene or object which may be regarded as queer, quaint or mirth-provoking. Location and description. Any story or legend to be related.

In the gardens south of Adare Allman is a group of six Altar stones collected in different parts of Kerry by Edwin, 3rd Earl of Darnley: (1) Aughaglar. A tall stone 6' 9" high broken & lying on the ground. Found on s/pt. of Aughaglar Hill. The surviving letters read:- OREGAN. Believed to have originally been a name such as BENEDICT. (2) Rockfield. Four stones were found in a cave at Rockfield, but were used in building a house. Three of them were afterwards brought to Adare. The fourth was lost. The first of these is a tall stone inscribed on two angles. It had angle bow broken. Left hand side: MARCHITITAM COLABOT

The complete inscription was possibly MARCHITITAM COLABOT on both angles.

The second is a similar stone and reads: COLLABOTAM MARCHITITAM. Very likely it commemorates theBattle of Mungret in 1027. The third is a stone bearing an inscription running in 2 lines, one read on left & one on right. Reads: CORBAGHE MARCHITIT. The stone known as "slieveknoke" was also found in Kerry & reads: NOARRA DAE 1 VOREDRAN. Is a small stone. See picture.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

"Upon this spot they stood
An aged oak tree under which
John Wesley preached to the people
Of Adare in and about the year 1756."

The above inscription on a slab of limestone
close by the ruins of Franciscan Abbey, Adare,
marks the spot where John Wesley preached to
the people of Adare. It is a place of reverence
for members of the Methodist Church.

Here are no holy wells or shrines in
the district.

(Signed)  P. J. Lynch
Surveyor.

DATE 1972/43.

Jervois Press, Ltd. Dublin.
HISTORIC SITES
Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

In and about Adare very many battles took place & more than once was the village completely wiped out. It was of course at all times the centre of the De Clare Wars & was visited by both Carbery & Essex. Cromwell, however, did not come nearer than its eastern end & the county but he, issued instructions for the destruction of Desmond Castle which was duly carried out.

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.

Corkagh, castle, Adare. The home of the De Vere family since 12th century and where the Burt family slept his life of 83 years. One of the loudest estates in Ireland and open to the public all the year round.

Adare Manor. Home of the Wynn-Enniskillen family (Earls of Darnley) who are descended from one of the Dalkey tribes. The present Earl is Head of the tribe of Enniskillen.

Diamond Castle, Adare. The stronghold of the Barretts, Earls of Kildare & Lords of Offaly. Many members of the family are buried locally but there are no monuments to mark their graves.

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.
I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

AMENITIES AND GENERAL INFORMATION.
TOWNS AND VILLAGES (Other than Seaside)

BARONY OF: C O S H A.
TOWN OR VILLAGE: ADARE
PARISH: ADARE
COUNTY: LIMERICK

Location and brief description.

Eleven miles from Limerick City is the pretty village of Adare, generally considered one of the loveliest in Ireland. quaint old thatched cottages with many panel windows, and single-roofed bungalow type houses of early 19th century are attractive features. Built on the left bank if the River Maigue, the travellers and tourists may linger for days and always find something to interest them. From medieval ruins and buildings to the ultra-modern transport vehicles of British phone and railway, it is a village that is a contrast. Is there a Town Hall?: Yes. Location: Near main Adare-Kilmallock road.

Parks, Gardens and Recreation Grounds.

Brief description:
The demesne of Adare Manor is always open to those with an estate pass, prominent at Adare Arms Hotel or estate office on payment of £1. The proceeds are devoted to a well deserving local charity, the District Nursing Association.

Brief comments on water supply and sewerage:

Up to date water supply & sewerage, under care of Limerick County Board of Health. There is a public drinking fountain beside R.C. Church.

PUBLIC SERVICES


Public lighting by: Electricity. Gas: Yes.

DANCING

Dance hall: Village Hall. Proprietor: J. H. O'Malley. Use of Hall is controlled by a local committee under the chairmanship of Mr. P. C. O'Sullivan, P.P.

CINEMAS AND THEATRES

Cinemas: None. Pictures shown: None. Cinema shows not allowed in the Village Hall. Travelling shows however give performances during summer months in marquees etc.

Theatre: Village Hall. Kind of shows: Drama, Comedy etc. at intervals.
LIBRARIES

Public Libraries
In the County Library is a branch of

Private Lending Libraries

CHURCHES AND SERVICES

ADARE

R.C. Church 8 & 11.30 A.M. Services (Sundays)
Church of Ireland 12 Noon & 7 P.M.

Old time all year round.

Church of England 12 Noon

Official time.

Methodist Church 12 Noon

All the above churches situated in village.

POSTAL FACILITIES

Location of Post Office
Main St., Village

Business (M.O., Telegraph, Telephone)

BANKING

Banks
Tuesday & Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(st. luke's & st. anthony's bank, sub-office to 6 p.m.)

SPORTS AND PHOTO SUPPLIES

Sports Dealers
None nearer than Limerick

Photographic Stores
Elliot & O'Sear's Medical Hall, Adare

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

Swimming Pool?

Public Baths?

Location
Location
SOCIAL CLUBS, CULTURAL SOCIETIES, &c.

Social Clubs While there is no special club, all parishioners and members of Adare may go to the Village Hall, where there is a Ballroom Room, Card Room, Games Room and Reading Room, all free.

Cultural Societies Adare Dramatic Society. Performances given many times during year—Drama, Comedy, Concerts, etc.

INDUSTRIES AND HANDCRAFTS

Industries There are two old stone mills at Adare. One owned by Mr. Sherriff and the other by Mr. Hingston. The water is pumped from local springs during the season. These are water power mills and have been working for many generations.

Handcrafts or Cottage Industries (Give names of craftsmen, employer, &c.):

PUBLIC MONUMENTS

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

In village at roadside, B. Church is a handsome cut stone cross on a tall column of limestone. At the base is a drinking fountain erected by Caroline, wife of 1st Earl of Dunmore, in commemoration of the work of villagers in extinguishing a fire at Adare Manor in 1844. Built 1856.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC BUILDINGS

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

The Christian Brothers' School is a handsome building of mixed limestone in well kept grounds. The Village Hall is a spacious building with lime and plaster work. Somewhat of the cottage type. The entire village is quite unlike any other village in Ireland, the houses being very uniform design and construction, mainly wood.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Irish Christian Brothers' Schools: National & Secondary.
Sisters of Mercy Convent.
Adare Protestant School.
St. Brummond's School.
Adare National Schools.

HOSPITALS

None nearer than 12 miles, which is four miles to east.
FAIRS AND MARKETS: HALF-HOLIDAY

Monthly fairs and markets

Weekly market day: Half-holiday Thursday

GARAGES AND PETROL STATIONS


J. Harrington, Garage, Adare.

CONVEYANCES FOR HIRE (Owners):

Taxis

J. Harrington, Garage, Adare.

B. Suttle, The Cottages, Adare.

Motors (Touring): In peak time vehicles are obtainable at Dunmore Arms Hotel.

Boats (State type)

Bicycles while cycles are not generally to be hired, at times when stock is available machines may be had from W. Doherty, Garage.

Caravans

Horses During Hunting season, horses may be had from Dunmore Arms Hotel, Adare and from some members of the Hunt Committee. The estate of J. D. Howard-Ellice Alexander, Clonlara, Adare, would be able to direct any inquiries in this respect.

CAMPING SITES

(At principal holiday resorts)

Location

Landowner

Local Improvements Committee

Secretary

DATE 29-6-43. (Signed) W.J. Lynne

Surveyor.

Jouorna Press Ltd., Dublin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOTELS</th>
<th>No. Guest Bedrooms</th>
<th>No. of Baths</th>
<th>No. of Lava</th>
<th>No. Public Rooms</th>
<th>Licensed</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dunmore Arms</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>lic.</td>
<td>A most luxurious appointed Hotel. Presently the hotel is the head quarters of the British Airways Airmail Corporation and the Pan-American Co. and there is little accommodation for visitors, in the ordinary sense. Self-contained suites may be had, with bath etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9</td>
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Guest or Boarding Houses: 

29th June, 1943.

N.G. Leslie.
I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

SPORTS AND GAMES

BARONY OF

TOWN OR VILLAGE

PARISH

COUNTY

ANGLING (Fresh water)

If there is only one river or lake in the parish this form (B) will suffice. For additional waters Form Ba to be used.

RIVER OR LAKE: ELLAIGNE

Nearest point to town (distance): Adjoining

KINDS OF FISH HELD:

Salmon; Trout

AVERAGE WEIGHT OF:

Salmon 12 lb.  Sea trout —— Brown trout 7 lb. (September to 5th of August)

BEST SEASONS FOR:

Salmon March; April  Sea trout —— Brown trout May; June (depends on weather)

SUITABLE FLIES:

Salmon Standard patterns

Sea trout

Brown trout Standard patterns; good dry fly, flie...n

State if angling is "entirely free"; "free except on preserved stretches"; etc.

A stretch of bridge is free but is "fishable" only for a

short distance on the stream at a bridge.

Preserved stretches, with names and addresses of Proprietors:

The entire stretch of river within the demesne so preserved

by the Earl of Arran and can be fished only by

invitation from the owner. Two one mile above

Preston Bridge, the river is preserved by ELLAIGNE

Anglers Assoc. but may be fished by visitors to Dunmore

Arms Hotel on payment of 50.; they be fished only

from Bannerman's or left hand) bank.

Owners of boats for hire, and charges per day:


Convenient angling centres (where accommodation is available):

Adare; Rathkeal; Limerick

Local Angling Club: Ellaque Anglers Assoc. Membership Fee: 7/6

Secretary (and Address): Mr. David Bunting, N.T., 6 Rooms.

only a few hundred yards of the river fished by this Assoc. are in favour of

Adare. Visitors to Adare may fish by courtesy of members or making a

subscription to funds, amount not specified.
Brief notes on fishing grounds:

Kinds of fish to be caught:

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day:

The Secretary
I.T.A., Dublin

Dear Sir,

I am of the opinion I omitted to mention section 3, particulars of golf club at Adare.

The following are details and I shall be very glad if you will have them mailed.

Professional - Robert Wallace.

Green fees - per day 2/6
  "  "  week 1/6
  "  "  month 2/6

The course is a good one on coarse but it is not fed. 9 holes. Hitting no incommens has been caused you.

Yours faithfully,

P. J. Byrne
Surveyor

19/7/43
SEA ANGLING

Brief notes on fishing grounds:

Kinds of fish to be caught:

Owners of boats, type of boats, and charges per day:

Bait available locally? Fishing tackle?

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other sea angling Assn.

GOLFING


Situation and brief description of course:

Situated in the demesne in a most delightful woodland setting. On the banks of the Maigue & surrounding the beautiful medieval ruins of Desmond Castle, Franciscan Abbey and two early churches. Considered the most picturesque course in Ireland and splendidly kept.

Name of Professional:

Is there a clubhouse on course? Yes. Licensed? No.  

Green fees (Visitors): Per day  Per week  
RACING
(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year

Under which rules? None within parish

Situation of course

HUNTING

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds Limerick County Hounds

Harriers

Beagles

COURSING

Name of Club Acland Bouncing Club

Meeting held annually? Every 5 years

At Bloumanna, one of the famous flat races which the district holds

GREYHOUND RACING

is held. The estate of Lord Acland, Kilgobbin, Acland, usually held in January - 3 days.

Name of Company Nearest at Limerick, 11 miles distant

Races on (nights) Sat night at 8:15 P.M.

SHOOTING

Brief notes on shooting areas, stating kinds of wild fowl or game, and if free shooting is available:

Rough shooting to be had free over lands adjoining the demesne, and elsewhere, except by invitation only. Boundary to estate is not a good shooting area.

If preserved, give names of landowners or lessees and addresses:

Adare: At Hon. The Earl of Dunraven, Acland, Acland.

Croom: Mr. T. C. de Vere, Leamphilease, Acland.

Shooting Club Secy.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Name of Club Competitions held?

ROWING AND SAILING

Rowing or yacht clubs, with address of club-house.
GAMES AND RECREATIONS
Name of Club or Committee concerned with the following:
(In each case give location of sports ground or recreation hall)

Gaelic Football
Hurling
Handball
Soccer
Rugby
Cricket
Hockey
Bowls
Bowling (on public roads)
Lawn Tennis
Croquet
Billiards
Badminton
Table Tennis
Bridge Club

Other games or recreations (inc. "Cross Roads" dancing)
At post gate lodge of bonephane, Adare, there is a "platform" where "cross roads" dancing takes place.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING
Name of Club
Events held under rules of

ANNUAL EVENTS
Give list of annual events held in the town or parish, naming promoters (Clubs, etc.) in each case. Include pilgrimages and patterns.

Irish hurling meeting
Promoters: Irish hurling club
Held in Oct., to commemorate in January of each year (gates R & L. Adam)
Adare bowing club meeting
Adare bowing club
Held in Oct., by permission of Earl of Desmond
Adare sports meeting (June) Adare Athletic club

DATE 19/47 (Signed) J. J. Dingle
Surveyor.
South of the house are large geometrical gardens, bounded on east by a stone balustrade with urns, from which broad flights of steps lead down to the river which washes the eastern wall of the house. A shaded walk under fully grown trees leads to the old stone bridge near the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey, Desmond Castle, Desmond Chapel and old church of St. Nicholas. To the west of the house is a gentle slope delightfully planted with rare and beautiful flowering shrubs. The big gardens are a few hundred yards to S.W., screened by delightfully matured trees of many colours and species. To outside of the garden walls are covered with rare trees and shrubs, all named and catalogued for the benefit of sightseers. The gardens which have much grass are excellently kept and the entire are at all times open to visitors with an estate pass, procurable at Dunmanus Arms Hotel or Estate Office, on payment of 1/-. The proceeds go to a well deserving local charity - District Nursing Assoc. Near the gardens are a number of欧阳 SERVICES brought from Kerry by 3rd Earl of Dunmanus.

The house is not open except on very rare occasions or by invitation or special arrangement. The estate may be entered from village, laneway lodge or estate Roberts. It might also be mentioned that Edwin, 3rd Earl of Dunmanus, joined the Oxford movement and was closely associated with Cardinal Newman in all his efforts.
The family sitting room, which is overlooking the river, is perhaps the most lovely and charming of all the rooms. In the centre of room is a marble arch. The oak ceiling between the door & arch is exquisitely carved, the beams being supported by angels bearing shields with red & white roses. The fireplace is in the arch with mosaic hearth stones from marble found locally. The stove between fireplaces is covered with oak paneling, with patterns of shamrock, rose & thistle, with the motto "Sede sede, multa supra altum velix" Room is 25 x 20 x 13 ft high.

The Billiard is a splendid apartment measuring 65 x 25 x 18 ft high. Ceiling is divided into 8 square panels formed by carved oak ribs at angles of which are carved pendant. The panels are covered with plaster work in low relief. There are two very fine fireplaces of red marble designed by Pugin & Hardwick, exquisitely carved. The service hall is a most unusual apartment, having piers supporting immense arches of early type and forming base of those in the great hall overhead. The kitchen is also a strange apartment of unusual design & architecture. The Wyndham tower is about 85 ft high to the battlements & 100 ft to top of roof. A spiral stair runs the entire height of the tower. There is also a well stocked library. The bedrooms of which none are very many are also of much striking beauty & design, and have apartments corresponding beautifully with those of the noble apartments already mentioned.
Adare Manor

are covered with valuable portraits of the family and connections, amongst the most valuable is a grand portrait of Queen Elizabeth as a child. Many famous artists are represented. There are many charming (pictures) portraits of the present Earl, Windham Henry Wyndham-Quin and his daughter, the Lady Ellen Wyndham-Quin, by the Leo Whelan. At the east end is a valuable library of ancient & semi-modern works. Busts of the following are arranged round the gallery: Valentine, 1st Earl; Windham Henry 2nd Earl; Edmond Burke; Henry Grattan; Dean Swift; Napoleon Bonaparte; Duke of Wellington; Lord Montecarlo & Brandon; A Gladiator; Sir Walter Scott; and Sir William Hamilton and William Pitt (the Younger). Arranged through the gallery are many rare & original pieces of furniture in excellent condition, chiefly early oak. Immediately inside front door (off vestibule) is a very charming room, formerly a sitting room and now a cloak room, wherein were once some very quaint carvings of the life of St. Virgin, now in the R. C. Church, having been presented by the Late Earl. Here is a marble, excellently carved red marble fireplace in this room & a very charming picture of the present head gamekeeper by Leo Whelan, a very perfect work. The large drawing room is south of the great hall & is exquisitely furnished in Chinese lacquer & hung with very lovely paintings, including one by Well Gwynn by Sir Peter Lely. East of this is the dining room, also hung with lovely pictures. The large dining room is a most lovely fireplace of dull red marble, well carved.
Ascending the stairs, you turn left into an arched stone passage which leads to a balcony over north side of hall, with exquisitely carved oak panels. A very beautiful oak door, the panels of which are carved & pierced, with groups of figures, the subject being from the life of David, leads into the gallery. This magnificent room, which it would be impossible to describe in detail is over 130 ft long, 21 ft wide & 26 ft high & gothic ceiling. It has five very tall windows, 3 in north & 1 each in west & east, mostly of excellent stained glass. The west window which was designed by Wilmot & erected by Windham, Henry Windham, 2nd Earl in love & honour of his Countess Caroline. It has the inscription, "The stained glass of these windows illustrates the pedigrees of the ancient & noble family of the Wyndhams." The ceiling is done with oak beams "scopas & portico's," having cross arches divided into sections which are connected at right angles by side arches. The cornice is ornamented with oak shields with Wyndham & Windham arms, each surmounted by a Knight's helm with helmet etc. At western end, inside door to left are some fine stalls brought from Antwerp & opposite them is a second row which was so well copied by local craftsmen that it would be impossible to distinguish them from the originals. These are also some beautifully carved misericords of oak, copied from Cologne Cathedral. There are three beautifully carved fireplaces in south wall, 3 polished marble from the locality, three as fine wonderfully carved walnut "robes, the subject being Biblical. One, the judgement of Solomon is especially fine. The floor is oak tenant wood. The walls
Adare Manor.

"obey the laws, enter with evil and do good." Set in the north wall is a slab with the inscription. "This goodly house was erected by Windham Henry, Earl of Dunmore, and Caroline, his betrothed, without borrowing, selling, or leaving a debt." The entire work of the house, stone timber, etc., was entirely done by the village craftsmen.

At the entrance you ascend a few stone steps to a recessed porch, with two massively carved oak chairs. Inside, door is a vestibule with four round arched doorways with jams of polished marble richly carved and ornamented. The largest leading to great hall has handrails with scrolls in illuminated letters. "Fraueque dolor addisce qui domus" on which all the founder actions were based. The doors in archway are covered with ancient, richly embroidered cloths. On entering the great hall, you get a feeling of surprise at being in a place totally unlike anything you have seen before. The dimensions are 55 x 36 ft and 30 ft high. The hall is lighted by many windows of different design & sizes. The walls are covered with bright armours, some very old portraits & horns of the "Dual Elk" of remarkable size, the pair our fireplace measures over 11 ft across. Here also is a complete skeleton of an elk of very remarkable size & found in a local bog. The chimney piece of polished & well carved grey stone was designed by Piranesi. The grand staircase of light grey stone is at south end of hall, covered with a rich green carpet.
The grant made by the Desmond in 1683 (to Lady O'Leary) included the salmon weirs of Ellenreddin, Black Abbey and gardens, with some
stretches of grass lands; a moiety of White Abbey and Poor Abbey
with its salmon and eel weirs. This Lady O'Leary was related
to John O'Leary (of boree) who was Bishop of Limerick from
1421 to 1551. The present estate comprises some 1,500
acres, most of which is delightfully wooded covered
by close on ten miles of well kept avenues. Lady's
first grandson Valentine Richard O'Leary was created a Baron
in 1781 and Baron of Adare in 1800. He was further advanced to
Viscount Mount Earl in 1816 and later to Earl of Dummoran
as Mount Earl and lastly made Baron Kenyon in the Peerage
of the U.K. The family have been most munificent
throughout their long association with Adare and
have employment to a very large number of people
from the district.

Adare Manor which must be one of the most
beautiful residences in Ireland is "sandle" and copied
from the best examples of the period. It was begun in
1832 & only completed after 1850. The house is built of
large blocks of hammersd & dressed limestones of
different colours, grey predominating, but relieved by blocks
of red & brown, all found in Limerick (most at Dummoran).
All the carvings are of limestones. On the parapet of the south
front is the following text cut out of solid stone, in large
lettering: "Except the Lord build the house, they that labour in
it, that build it." Part of this front is an open colonade
on loggia one which is the text: "Low God only, honour and
Re Dominican Abbey, Adare.

It is generally believed that the above was founded in 1230 and was a monastery for Dominican monks of the Order of the Redemption of Captives, a society for the humane object of redeeming from the dukes of the chivalry, the captives taken in war or by pirates. It is the only house of that noble order in Ireland and its monks were supposed to have been brought from Aberdeen. It was dedicated to St. James and the Poor established at Adare in 1235 was connected with his feast day to the church (which will be later described) and the castle, the oldest building in the district is the Dominican Abbey. Its founder is believed to have been Thomas Fitz-Gerald, seventh Lord of Offaly.
Adare Manor

Adare means “Ford of the Oaks.” In Norman times was a feudaline outpost. It was sold (1771) to Mr. Valentine Quinn. Adare is a charming region, with objects of antiquarian interest and superb natural views. Once famous for its magnificent elms, Avenue in front of house blown down in Nov. 1814. Nearly 700 trees were uprooted by “The Big Wind” (Jan. 1823). There are three Friary ruins—Trinitarian, Augustinian, and Franciscan (or Grey) Friary. The first Earl of Dunraven (c. 1870) restored Trinitarian Abbey and gave it to Catholics. There is a fine E. Window, representing the Offering of the Magi.

Adare Manor was commenced in 1832. The style is late English Tudor and the material local grey limestone. Was designed by an amateur and erection supervised by James Connolly, a local stonemason. Gran inscription on E. front of house.
Mansiones, Castle, XI
gassiers to repair from damage or disfiguring any of the trees on the estate. It is her ambition that all who can will partake of or enjoy the beauty of the woods & walks of thence, which it is hoped will be restored with the return of more normal times.

The Duke is kindly supplying a picture of the house as it was prior to burning & this will be forwarded to you as soon as it comes to hand.
Ellenborough, Estate, Exeter, a picture attributed to Bartolomeo Cenniello (1618-92), a table of Erland Custisette to the illegitimate son of France, a marble marble among a table of early old Italian workmanship, the last of Lady de Vere, Sir Vere, the father of Sir Aubrey, owned Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel, amongst other things, he stated that, was a Pottery which turned excellent specimens of china. Some examples of this were also saved. In 1835 the Poet's only surviving sister was married at the convent's house in the salon. For this, we have a cabinet saved from the ellary of the antiques saved and are presently on loan to the Ellerslie attached to the Dineville library.

Overlooking the lake is in full view of the house is a beautiful limestone cross in memory of Sir Aubrey de Vere, his wife, five sons, and three daughters. In a clearing at west side of the house is a marble altar stone erected in memory of the husband of the present owner, Robert Stephen Vere de Vere, who died in 1926. He held many high legal positions in the colonies and retired to Lumsdale which he dearly loved. He died in 1935. His death was widely regretted as he like his predecessor was devoted to the upholding of the poor and needy of his district during the famine that the Vere family did everything possible to relieve. Audley is a suffering man, gave much needed employment. At northern end of lake is a 400-year-old oak tree. Ellerslie de Vere especially regrets all
finest in Ireland and had amongst other things five volumes of Wordsworth's poems, annotated by himself or given by him to Ellis Dennick or by Ellis Dennick to Aubrey de Vere. There were also many of Dennycrop's first editions of the personal letters of Cardinal Wolsey, who was closely associated with Sir Aubrey during the Oxford Movement, as well as a close friend of the family. He stayed at Drumragh during his visits to County Limrick. Amongst the paintings in the library were a 19th century portrait of Aubrey de Vere, 20th and last Earl of Oxford, a portrait of Sir Thomas Moore, done immediately after the death of his wife and with tears still in his eyes.

The great hall was decorated by John Flaxman (1755-1826) who was responsible for the statue of Nelson in London. The frieze was copied from that of the Parthenon at Athens. In the Hall will be found a bust of Angelica Kauffman's work, a marble, carved, marble table. George R. Watts (1817-1904) great painter and sculptor spent some time at Drumragh and began a frieze on the stairs. Sir Dante & Beatrices but only Beatrice was finished. In the Hall was a magnificent fireplace of Connemara marble, excellently carved. Jennycrop & Sketch Giffen were constant visitors at Drumragh.

In the salon were many lovely things, most of which were rare. Included were many books of the family by leading sculptors; a collection of old books of Sir Aubrey
The house, which was palatial, was accidentally destroyed by fire in December 1741 and, on this event, many works of art and priceless treasures were lost. Amongst these was a 

painting by Michael Angelo, one of three in the world. The house was built between 1710 and 1730 and was greatly altered and added to in 1833 by Sir Aubrey de Vere, father of the poet. It occupies the site of a very old castle, the keep of which was converted into the great hall of the present house. The strongly vaulted 
dungeon joins the present kitchen. In 1833 the whole south, east and west fronts were faced with cut 

limestone and the saloon added. The terrace and broad 
flight of steps leading to it and Hall doors, were also added about this time. The saloon, built over 
the old castle vaults, was 60 ft long and was specially constructed for music. Sir Aubrey's wife, who was the 

sister of the 1st Baron Montacute, was a gifted musician 
and had also a beautiful voice. Sir Aubrey, who died 
in 1846, was followed by Sir Vere, eldest son who was 
followed by 2nd son, Sir Stiphra, who died in 1904 at the age 

of 92. Aubrey the Poet was the 3rd son and while he never 

had the responsibilities of the estate, he never the less spent 
his entire life of 88 years there and occupied the same 
room throughout all these years. This room, alas, was 

Vere turned into a little museum as there were gathered 
all his belongings and treasured possessions, just as he 
had left them.

The Library at kennelshurst was one of the
Ellansies, Estate

Lemaneaghnew Situated about 315 miles west of Adare. Owned by Miss Isabel O. de Ver. One of the loveliest estates in Ireland & open all the year round to visitors, free of charge. Ellansies miles of well kept avenues & woodland walks cover the entire estate of 800 acres in centre of which is a very beautiful lake planted throughout with lilies & other water plants & entirely surrounded by fully grown trees of many species & colours. It may well be called "Limerick's Killarney." A walk about 2 miles long goes right round the lake. In the lawn to west of house are many rare & beautiful trees planted by successive generations of the de Veres all of whom have been passionately devoted to trees. The present owner, during the season past, has pruned planted 2,500 yew trees. In the lawn is an very beautiful specimen of red hawthorn known as the Poets tree. The under branches have come down, formed fresh roots & again ascended. At this the poet Aubrey de Vere was wont to gaze for hours & from which he drew much inspiration for his lovely odes. Beside it is a little mound in a clearing amidst equally beautiful trees is this he called "Little Heaven." Here too be used to nib & meditate. A stone slab with suitable inscription marks the spot & is has been nailed in & tastefully planted by Ollis de Ver. The walled-in gardens are presently closed to public, being under essential works. Do an visit in the tillage time, many acres in excess of quota have been tilled.
Mansions etc.
Cunagh Blase, Adare.

Connect with this the material given in Stonehall parish report (Lucas, 1944). Reference to Lewis Topog. Dict. will probably decide to which parish it belongs, but in any case it would perhaps be better to give the account under Adare.

Note especially Mrs. de Vere's request re care of flowers, shrubs etc.

R. G. 19/5/44
Adare II

Mondelhip, close by Port Union & Kilgottoon is the residence of Commander Felix Fitzgerald. Here a very successful Stud Farm is carried on & many famous horses have been bred there. It is a very lovely old place, ideally situated on the banks of the Blarney & amidst well kept grounds & gardens. Recently Capt. Fitzgerald is serving abroad so the house is let to an official of British Airways Corporation & I could not gain admittance. The Stud Farm however is being run by the staff. During normal times the place is open to visitors & is well worth a visit.

When dealing with Kilgottoon it should have been stated that the coursing for the famous “Dublin Hare” is run over the estate of Lord Adare. The coursing grounds are well kept, approached by a well kept avenue & nicely planted. There is a stand-house on the grounds with refreshment rooms attached. Although the meeting takes place within Kilgottoon it is however still known as “Blaunama”. The meeting takes place usually in January of each year. For three days.

The county hunters Doe Hounds are kept at Blonishire House, Adare, the residence of the Master, Mr. Alexander. It is a picturesque old house in lovely surroundings & the dogs & hounds are well kept & kept up at any time. There is no objection to visitors.
At Fort Union, Adare, is the famous Stud Farm, property of Lord Adare, where many famous horses have stood and where many more famous horses have been raised. Warden of the Marshes stands there presently and at 23 years is still a beautiful animal. Although he, himself was a wonderful horse, his progeny have not been very successful. Amongst other horses standing there are Panorama, a lovely grey and his Highness, both successful racers. At Fort Union stood Denwood the middle horse of some years ago & beside the Stud Farm is his tomb, amongst those of other favorite animals.

Fort Union is an ancient delightful surrounding & the buildings are well kept & surrounded with lovely gardens. Mr. Burton, the man in charge, well at all times gladly shows visitors around the premises & paddocks.

Nearly at Kilgobbin is the most lovely old place "Kilgobbin House", residence of Viscount Adare, son & heir of Earl of Dunraven. It is a picturesque rambling old place, delightfully kept. To insist in the food, drink, about 90 acres are under corn, although it being a Stud Farm would not come under the "order". When I called both Lord & Lady Adare were at their place in Kerry & I could not see house. The gardens which are very fine & well kept are not open to the public.
Antiquities.

Beareaghcastle Castle. Here was an ancient castle at Beareaghcastle but this was embalmed in the mansion which was built by Sir Aubrey de Vere in 1833. The kitchens of the present house were originally the castle & the strong vaulting still remains.

Adare. A strong keep was embalmed in the present Manor House, which was begun in 1832.

Raths, Forts, etc.

There are very many Raths scattered over the parish but more worthy of special mention. At Adare, the site of the old rath is covered by the ruins of Drummond Castle but the fosse may still be seen so it was cleared out some years ago & a wooden bridge erected over it, by the Earl of Dunmore. On the lands of the George Henson, Hollywood, Adare, are the remains of a stone fort, very much decayed & nearly all features lost. West of the road beside his entrance gate is an immense standing stone. Measure about 7 ft high, 6 feet wide & 1 1/2 thick. Running through his land is an old double ditch or fencine, which starts in the bog of Kilquogan & ends in a neighbouring bog. It is believed to have been an old fortification.
GARRANBOY CASTLE. Situated at rear of residence of Mr. Lecky, Lismackil, Garranboy, Adare. It was an oval tower, about 40 x 33 ft. outside, walls up to 8 ft. thick. Surrounded by a small about 10 ft. high, with bastions at four corners. The one at western angle is still perfect. The main wing of castle had wooden floors & the whole was covered by a stone vault. There were loopholes (skylights) at northern & eastern angles on 2nd & 3rd floors respectively. Throughout the walls were many arches & recesses & the slit windows had ogee heads. The stair (spiral) which was in the southern angle is entirely gone & also all the small chambers which led off it to east as this section collapsed some years ago. It is of the late 15th century & was in turn owned by the Wals (or de Valle) & the Mahon family before & of whom it was confiscated. Easily good site. No care.

BLOXHILL CASTLE. Adjoining farm house of Mr. Shanahan, Bloxhille, Adare. It was the castle of the Manor of Adare & once the Bishop's manor while during his invications in the country about. It was held by St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick from 13th century. It was leased in 1608 by the Bishop to W. Clarke and then passed to Capt. W. Piggott and later to Capt. W. Alcott. From memory it can be seen it was built in three sections & added to twice. A perfect spiral stairs in in northern angle. There are neat slit windows with ogee heads. The castle dates from early part of 16th century. (See picture) Bloxhille meant "Fairies Plain".
**Antiquities**

**Dunmanan Castle.** A 16th century edifice. Peel tower with the usual guard room and hole over the entrance. Spiral stairs in eastern angle. Castle 45 x 33 ft approx of 20 ft high. The first family to be associated with the district of Dunmanan were the Crostan or Crostan family in the early 15th century. It is believed it was built as a residence for a widowed countess of Desmond. There is a well carved door in east & overhead, two elaborately carved windows with very unusual & well carved drip stones, flowing to either side, each one having different ornamentation. (See picture) One door to left in a most extraordinary carving of an indent female figure, usually called a "sheela-na-gig" which was supposed to bring luck. Castle is on the land of former residence of the Patrick Shiels, Dunmanan Castle, Lecorn. In very good repair but in recent years of no care. Of three stories, ground & 2nd vaulted & made five foot in 1st story. 20 walls were 6 ft thick.

**Fintinestown Castle.** On the lands of Mrs. Maxwell, Fintinestown, Adare. Only eastern angle to a height of 20 ft remains with a rude vault underneath. Hodkinster family who originally held it were in Limerick since beginning of 13th century, when one of them was Eilgair. It later passed to the Kerins who were destroyed after the siege of Askeaton in 1599. It was of 4 stories. Had repair & quickly decaying. In recent years no care. Found our will iny.
Along banks of river are ruins of many apartments, including dining hall which as a lonely cinquefoil headed window looking on to river as also are two other double lighted pointed windows & door. The window, broken, also looks towards river. A gate in east wall of rampart leads to an unmalled enclosure within the moat. The north gate leads to the church, already described (St Nicholas & Desmond Chapel). The castle was erected in 1202 and in 1331 the following description was given of it: "The building consisted of a chapel and a chamber, east roofed with thatel, a tower covered with planks, a kitchen covered with slates and a chamber near it." The castle was many times besieged and many times changed hands but the Geraldines managed to keep hold of it until 1683 when much of the property was leased to Clancy Druin, and later sold to his descendant Valentine. The property still continues in the Druin family (Dunman). The castle was destroyed by order of Lord Protector (Cromwell) in 1653. The ruins are very well kept and preserved by the Earl of Desmond who takes a very deep interest in all the archaeological remains within it adjacent to his wide property.
along bank of river are ruins of many apartments including dining hall which as a lonely cinquefoil headed window looking on to river as also are two other double lighted pointed windows & door. The window, broken, also looks towards river. A gate in east wall of rampart leads to an unzalled enclosure within the moat. The north gate leads to the church, already described (St. Nicholas & Desmond Chapel). The castle was erected in 1202 and in 1331 the following description was given of it: "The building consisted of a chapel and a chamber, each roofed with thatch; a tower covered with planks; a kitchen covered with slates and a chamber near it." The castle was many times besieged and many times changed hands but the Geraldines managed to keep hold of it until 1683 when much of the property was leased to Blathy Penn, and later sold to his descendant Valentine. The property still continues in the Penman Family (Bennan). The castle was destroyed by order of the Lord Protector (Cromwell) in 1653. The ruins are very well kept & preserved by the Earl of Desmond who takes a very deep interest in all the archaeological remains within & adjacent to his wide property.
The remains consist of a large square keep, but only north wall is intact. The tower vaults of all the keep still remain. It stands in a small ring fort.

The gate is fortified by a strong battlemented rampart with a huge semi circular bastion to west. There is a large gateway to south with slides for a drawbridge (see plan). Connecting with this is the rampart of the outer water wath. This ward has a gateway to south between a semi circular bastion or western angle and a high water tower at eastern angle. Inside the south gate is the hall to night with four very lovely Norman windows intact. Two maul are broken. Running east from hall...
Desmond Castle.

Peaceful it stands, the mighty pile,
By many a heart's blood once defended,
Yet silent now as cloistered aisle,
Where rung the sounds of banquet splendid.
Age holds its undivided state
Where youth and beauty once were cherished,
And remants pass the wardens gate,
Where heroes once espied and finished.

(Ancient Poem)
Antiquities VIII

Kilgobbin Church. Situated beside farm yard attached to Kilgobbin House. It was an ancient parish church. Was of very rough masonry & rather small, 28 x 18 ft. approx. Only the west gable will portions of side walls now remain. An W. gable was a helpful now gone & also a door which had a huge lintel. Door now broken down & lintel on the ground. Lintel measured 7 x 3½ x 1½ feet. This little church was most likely of early 13th century as it was mentioned during the very early years of Norman rule, as also were Belmullet & Kilgobbin.

Dochtartaona church. The present ruined 18th century church at Dochtartaona, Adare, stands on the site of a much earlier church, of which there is now no trace. The present ruin is very pretty, having a square battlemented tower. It is surrounded by an old burial ground.

Kilconnely Church. A spot near Kilconnely House, Adare is pointed as the site of this 13th century church, which belonged to the convent at Adare (Franciscan) was seized by the Knights Hospitallers during opening years of 14th century. Was mentioned during early years of Norman rule. No trace of it now.

Leaste Roberts. There was also an early church at Leaste Roberts, Adare but there is now no trace of it as it was demolished a very long time ago with the castle of same name & the stones were used to build Castle Roberts bridge nearby.
Olbanish Church. Called "Templemore." This was an ancient parish church 50 x 25 ft approximately outside walls 3 ft thick. The east is a very perfect narrow window, round headed and widely splayed. Windows to S. are defaced. North wall is entirely overgrown with ivy & no features can be traced. In the western gable is a low door with inclined jambs of huge blocks of hard stone, well cut, topped by an immense lintel about 10 ft long running through wall. Ever this door is a window about 8 ins wide & 30 ins high. Surrounded by an ancient burial ground. Ruin in receipt of no care whatever.

Dunnaman Church. Late father church in good preservation. Comprising Nave & Chancel 42 x 20 & 22 x 16 approximate. Of very rough irregular masonry. Sequential arched doors in N. & S. Choin and north broken was painted. Very nice window in E, round headed, which is perfect as also one in S. All had pointed lights. The window to S & one in W. broken. Nave had windows in S, N & 3 high up in western gable. All round headed. Round headed doors & many slabs were in N & S walls close to W. gable. At western end of nave were corbels for a gallery or perhaps minister's house. Holy water stoup inside S. door still intact. Ruin surrounded by an ancient burial ground. In receipt of no care whatever. On lands of Cdr. Patrick Shier, Dunnaman, Broom.
Church of St Nicholas, Adare, close by the ruins of the Desmond castle, standing on parish burial ground. Comprising choir of nave. In western gable was a double belfry. Choir 33 x 18 ft, nave 54 x 18. At west end was a large porch or vestibule 21 x 18 ft, probably the minister's house. The choir arch & round headed east (slit) window are early Irish. In north wall of nave, near west end is a low doorway, pointed outside, of cut limestone, segmental arched inside. It is considered a very early foundation but was greatly altered as it was the Parish church until opening years of last century. See picture. (Late 11th century church)

The Diamond Chapel: Slightly to north of above is a pretty little chapel 42 x 21 ft outside. Door in south wall near west end. Pointed outside of cut limestone, segmental arched inside. Two trefoil lancet windows, east & west. Windows in N & S. Broken. Walls 3 ft thick. The base of walls on outside is remarkably sloped. See picture. It was built by the Desmond family between the years 1460 & 180 & was added to by the Bishop of Limerick, sometimes circa, nearly a century later. (Bishop 1400 - 1426)

All the foregoing are in excellent preservation & are maintained by the Earl of Desmond, who had them all repaired & safeguarded.
North of and adjoining cloister was the kitchen with large fireplace. Outer wall gone. North east of kitchen was the wardens house. North wall gone but south wall will have Norman windows remains. East of of adjoining cloister were a number of rooms including a clock room. Over thang was the dormitory. Slightly to north & separated by a gravel court was the guest house beside which was the kitchen & guest house. Guest house had lovely chimney fireplace. About 50 yards to west of main building was the mill, fragment of which only remains.

The Abbey was built for the Order of Friars Minor of St. Francis by Thomas, Earl of Kildare & Johanna his wife. It was commenced in 1464, dedicated to St. Michael & completed in 1466. The founders died respectively in 1478 & 86. Johanna was buried in the monastery. The aforementioned were responsible for the church, cloister, two sacristies and the cemetery. Eleanor Fitzgibbon, wife of Somerville O'Dea built the great chapel or transept in 1483. Somerville O'Sullivan who died in 1492 built the very lovely chapel. John, Earl of Desmond & Eleanor, the wife of Thomas Fitzmaurice, built the small chapels to east of transept. Someragh O'Brien who died in 1502 added the dormitory. The dining hall was built by Marianne O'Sickey. The Knight of Glin & his wife built the infirmary. See pictures.
Central parts

the latter; one with two pointed lights and to the other, one round headed light. From transept two pointed arches and from aisle one pointed arch led to nave. The western windows of nave had three simple pointed lights; pointed door to south; well carved sedilia at east end; one sedilia were two square double lighted windows. The choir divided from nave by the simple arches of the belfry had a beautiful east window of four lights with interlacing shafts. High up on south wall were four round headed windows with double lights.

In north wall was a pointed door and high up a double lighted square window. At both sides were delightfully carved sedilia and in recess of one to right a well carved piscina or stoup. From latter as north noting. From underneath belfry a pointed door led to south walk of cloister which is about 40 ft square in the centre of which is a splendid old yew tree. The north, east & east walks have plain pointed arches. The west has more ornamented ones, with bases, capitals & clustered shafts.

To west of cloister through a round headed door was the splendid chimney hall will two massive fireplaces of limestone. This apartment was about 75 x 18 ft. 2 square west wall were seven windows, some single & some double lighted. There were pointed doors to N & west & square door to hall in south. But this were a number of rooms will two fine fireplaces of limestone & many round headed & square windows. Slightly to west was the infirmary will small square windows; many ambries; pointed door to east & rounded door to north. 40 x 18 ft.
The Franciscan or "Poor" Abbey, situated on the right bank of the tunnel, is perhaps the most beautiful and interesting of all the Irish ruins. Of all it is the lovely old bridge leading to Manor, it affords a complete idea of a monastery with its surrounding buildings and enclosures. The plan is intact but most of the buildings to the north are gone. Approaching from the south side (south) the old Geraldine gate is first met. This has the Geraldine Shield inset and is known as the Kilmalee Gate. It now stands alone. Here was a large enclosure between this gate and the Abbey itself. Another smaller gate is close by south side of the building. An in situ slab which bore the Geraldine Arms has been removed from this. The church consists of a chancel and nave divided by arches of the Holy. Running to the south is the transept with an aisle at western side and two beautiful little chapels to east. The transept or main aisle was known as the Lady Chapel. The south window in the transept or chapel has four lights with graceful interlacing shafts. Underneath this window is left, sedilia beside which is a well carved piscina. Opening to the east are two pretty little chapels which are entered through pointed arches. Windows in both are painted, with two lights and interlacing shafts. In one of these the altar slab is still intact. The sedilia are beautifully carved and well notched. South of these chapels was a small window with two lights and interlacing shafts. Three pointed arches separate transept from western aisle. South of this was the sacristy with three windows, one west and two to south, the former has two round headed lights and...
Antiquities

are three cinquefoil arches. Along the south walk in the standild of the arches are carved shields with the arms of the de Verdun family. In the modern building the burial place of the Dunmore family. On the banks of the river is a square pigeon tower; an archway which had the de Verdun arms and traces of other buildings. Inside the church are more further interesting features in the nature of an 18th century pieta of German workmanship overhead the memorial on left hand side; a very ancient font which is a memorial to a member of the de Verdun family; a heavy oak door leading from vestry which was removed from the old church of St Nicholas at time of the restoration and some splendidly carved stalls of memorials. This Abbey was founded prior to 1317. The domestic apartments were restored in 1814 by the same benefactor who restored the Protestant community in a school which still continues. The stepped battlements of the eastern gable are worth noting to give an idea of what the east gable of church was like before restoration. Underneath the church are many vaults of rude construction. There are no old tombs in church or cloister. In the church are many memorials to distinguished parishioners. The key of church may be had at Protestant Teacher's residence beside the church and school. See picture.