

**I.T.A. Topographical and General Survey**  
Natural Features, Antiquities, Historic Associations, Etc.

**Barony of *Coshmore and Coshbride***

**Town or Village** Tallow                      **Parish** Tallow                      **County** Waterford

**TOPOGRAPHY**

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

One of the finest views in this district may be obtained from Tallow Hill, 592 feet above sea level. To the south is the valley of the Bride. This river, meandering about on its' course to the Blackwater, is very picturesque. Round about the Hill, the land is very thickly wooded. To the north is the thickly wooded country round Lismore, and further the Knockmealdown Mountains rise clear and blue and form a pleasant background to this charming scene. The main road from Lismore to Tallow is also very picturesque: The trees growing along its sides give it an air of peace and quiet; in some places they meet overhead, forming very beautiful archways, and the road looks more like a private avenue through some well-kept demesne rather than a public way.

**GEOLOGY**

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

There are no unusual geological features in this parish. The rock formation in the valley of the Bride is limestone. There are veins of upper old red sandstone to the north and south of this.

**MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES**

of imposing character

None.

**ANTIQUITIES**

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrains, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli 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.

Lisfinny Castle Ruin: The following is O'Donovan's description of this ruin [O'Donovan's Letters. Art.]: 'In the townland of Lisfinny [Lios Finghin] near the north bank of the River Bride stands the Geraldine Castle of Lisfinny, commanding a fine view of the plain through which the river flows. It is a plain structure in tolerable preservation measuring on the outside 43 feet 4 inches from north to south and 33 feet east to west. It is about 70 feet in height and its walls 8 feet thick and well grouted. It consists of four stories: the first floor over the ground one and the upper floor rested upon stone arches which still remain. The other floors were of wood and have long since disappeared. The doorway was on the south wall, but it is now completely disfigured. A spiral staircase leads to the top in the south-west corner. This castle had 20 windows formed of chiselled limestone, some rectangular and some pointed at the top. The quoin stones are also all chiselled. The walls are built of brown grit stones all quarried and hammered'



Notes: This old ruin is still fairly well preserved. The two stone arches mentioned above are still standing and intact. The rendering on these arches is worthy of note; it seems to have been laid on a wickerwork model. The staircase is intact right to the top of the castle. At the top of the staircase on the first floor level are some steps leading down to a small low dark room, not more than five feet high. This may have been used as a sort of prison, though it would hold no more than two persons. It is lighted by a very small opening. The first storey is lighted by two tall narrow windows, one on the north and one on the south wall. These windows measure about 50 inches by 4 inches; remains of a fireplace or chimney flue in the s.e. corner.

The floor of the second, which was of timber, has disappeared.

Third floor: This floor, which rests on a stone archway, is intact. The staircase leads from the south wall of this to the floor above. The archway leading from the room to the stairs is still intact, and is somewhat as shown in the diagram. Opposite this archway, still on the same wall is a window aperture, still in fair state of preservation. There is a very fine window aperture measuring 7 feet by one foot on the east wall. This is still in perfect condition. This window is widely splayed on the inside.

It measures about 9 feet by three feet. There is a small loop[*a*] cut in stone on the east side of this aperture. This was used to support a bar or beam. There is a similar window opposite this, on the north wall now much injured. A remarkable feature of this is the chimney flue right over the window.

The fourth floor has disappeared, but access may be gained to a ledge which runs along the west wall. Some further steps lead to the flag tower.

The sanitary arrangements which are worthy of note, are in the south-west corner of the castle. A long flue ran from the ground to the top storey, and connected each floor.

The records of the county throw little light on the history of Lisfinny Castle. It was built by the Earls of Desmond like numerous County Waterford castle. In 1579 Garrett, 15<sup>th</sup> Earl plundered Youghal and carried some of his plunder thither. It was then, according to Hollingshead, 'kept by Spaniards', who these latter were is not recorded. It was inhabited, and probably owned by Sir John of Desmond in 1574. Gabriel O'Connell Redmond believed it to have been the residence of Thomas Earl of Desmond, but on what authority he does not state. [see J.R.A.S. XVII, '86 , 399]. In 1837 it was converted into the residence of Captain E. Croker. It is best remembered locally as the scene of the amusing incident about Jasper Pyne in 1888.

It is situated about half-a-mile north of Tallow beside the residence of Robert Smyth.

Sheanmore Castle: This castle stands two or three miles east of Mocollop. The ruins consist of an almost square keep, differing in detail only from Lisfinny. The remains of a staircase still enables one to reach the top storey. The windows and doorways are now in ruinous condition. On the top storey, in the north west angle and projecting from the north and west walls are two barbicans, with cut stone supports, roofed with small stones in a kind of beehive shape. These communicate with the chambers on the top storey and each has three circular loop-holes for musketry.



This is a Desmond castle. It is not known who built it, but it was the inheritance of Maurice, second son of Gerald Oge. Maurice was involved in the rebellion of Garrett More, the Great Earl of Desmond, and was attainted in the 28<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Elizabeth. During the Desmond Rebellion in the latter part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Shean castle is said to have been burned by Sir Henry Sydney of Conna Castle. At the suppression of that rebellion Shean Castle was fortified. It was later included in the Desmond grant to Sir Walter Raleigh. It was probably finally demolished by Elizabeth's troops.

It is situated about 30 yards from the public road, on the land of Michael Waters.

#### Historic Sites

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

None of any interest

#### Historic Houses; Burial Places

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.

Frank Ryan, famous tenor, was born here and resides here at present. John Hogan, noted sculptor, was a native of Tallow.

#### 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 in Tallow.

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-providing. Location and description. Any story or legend may be related.

None

Customs, Patterns, Etc.

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

None

Date 4-9-43

(Signed) Micheal O Domhnaill

Surveyor.



Bait available locally? -----

Fishing Tackle? -----

Representative of B.S.A.S. or other Sea Angling Assn. No

### Golfing

Name of Club None. Lismore No. of holes 5 miles distant. Is nearest course

Situation and brief description of course:  
None

Name of Professional None

Is there a Clubhouse on course? -----

Licensed? -----

Green Fees (Visitors): per day -----

Per week -----

### Racing

(Including "Point-to-Point" and "Flapper" Meetings)

No. of meetings normally held during the year One [Point-to-Point]

Under which rules? Irish National Hunt.

Situation of Course This is a very fine course situated about one mile south of the town. 1<sup>st</sup> meet of the year usually held in February.

### Hunting

Hounds which hunt in the district:

Foxhounds West Waterford Pack.

Harriers None

Beagles None

### Coursing

Names of Club None. There was a big annual meet pre-war. Meeting held annually? -----

### Greyhound Racing

Name of Company None

Races on (nights) -----

### Shooting

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

Fairly good shooting available in this area. Pheasant, duck and snipe principally. Also cock occasionally. Mr. Scanlon, Tallow obtained 300 pheasant eggs from England – 100 each year for three years, some years ago, and thus distributed a large number of birds in this district. Plover was very plentiful here a few years ago but their numbers have declined very much of late. Duck very plentiful in the Bride Valley. Some free shooting is available.

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

Mrs. Lynch, Mountfair Tallow, has her lands preserved. Many local farmers preserve their land occasionally. Notices to this effect appear in the local weekly paper.

Shooting Club None

Secretary None

### Clay Pigeon Shooting





### Churches and Services

Church: Tallow R.C. Church Services (Sundays) 9.00 and 12.00  
Church of Ireland Tallow 11.00a.m.

### Postal Facilities

Location of Post Office Barrack Street [opposite Devonshire Arms Hotel]  
Business (? M.O., Telegraph, Telephone) M.O., Telegraph, Public telephone, Pensions, saving certs.,  
Stamps, etc.

### Banking

Banks Munster and Leinster Bank.

### Sports and Photo Supplies, &c.

Sports Dealers Sheehan Brothers. Make hurleys. The majority of the hurleys are made locally.

Photographic Stores Daniel Sheehan, Chemist, West Street Tallow.

### Swimming Pools and Baths

Swimming Pool? None Location Tallow people bathe in the Bride..  
Public Baths? None Location

### Social Clubs, Cultural Societies, &c.

Social Clubs None  
Cultural Societies Local Dramatic Club hold plays etc. during the year. Frank Ryan noted tenor lives here.

### Industries and Handcrafts.

Industries Bakeries, Coal and Corn stores. Saw Mills, ships come up the Bride to Janeville Quay, 2 miles east of the town, with coal and export timber etc. Bridevalley Stores employ about 20 hands, motor and cycle repairs at O'Brien's Garage; also dairy farming in the area round about.

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

Thomas Quinlan, Tallow Hill, Tallow, Basket Maker. He and his brother make their living on this trade. Traditional basket maker.

### Public Monuments

(Brief description; inscription to be quoted)

None

### Important Public Buildings

(Give brief notes on architectural features)

None

### Schools and Colleges

Boys and | Girls N.S., Tallow  
Kilcolf, N.S. Mixed.  
Shean N.S. Mixed  
Church of Ireland School Tallow

### Hospitals

There is a dispensary here.

### Fairs and Markets; Half-Holiday

Monthly Fairs and Markets None Annual Horse Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.  
Weekly market day Friday Half-holiday No fixed day. Thursday or Friday as convenient

### Garages and Petrol Stations

O'Brien's Garage, Barrack Street Tallow  
Fitzgerald Bros. The Square Tallow  
James Tobin, West Street, Tallow [petrol only]



Mrs. Walsh, Barrack Street, Tallow [petrol only]

Conveyances for Hire (Owners):

Taxis

O'Brien's Garage

Fitzgerald's Garage

John Hartigan, West Street

James Collins, Chapel Street

Michael Hurley, Convent Street (he also runs car services to Cork)

Motors (Touring)                      None

Boats (State Type)                      None

Bicycles                                      None

Caravans                                      None

Horses                                        None

Camping Sites

(at principal holiday resorts)

Location: No fixed sites

Landowner:

Local land-owners usually allow camps to be pitched on their property.

Local Improvements Committee: Parish Council

Secretary: Patrick Walsh, Main Street.

Date: 4-9-43

Signed: Micheal O'Domhnaill

Surveyor

Form E.

**I.T.A. Topographical and General Survey  
Accommodation and Catering**

**Barony of Coshmore and Coshbride**

**Town or Village** Tallow                      **Parish** Tallow                      **County** Waterford

**Hotels**                                      **No. of Bed.**                                      **Licensed**

Devonshire Arms

Hotel, Tallow

[Mrs. Kinelry Prop].      7      (No bath, 1 lav, 3 public rms)      Yes      Though not first class, the hotel is kept in good order. Travellers seem pleased with food and fare.

Brideview Hotel,

Tallow Bridge

[Miss Smith, Prop].      4      (1 bath, 1 w.c. 3 public rms)      Yes      This is a very nice and clean hotel and has been lately repaired and some new additions built. Miss Smith, who intends retiring from business soon, told me that she intends selling the hotel at an early date. There are 10 acres of land attached; also garden which is kept quite well. Very nice surroundings on the banks of the Bride. Annual rent 7-0-4. She would be satisfied to take 3 thousand pounds for the hotel, lands etc.

**Guest or Boarding Houses**

Miss Hartigan, West St.

Tallow      1      (no bath, 1 w.c., 2 public rms)      No      All these boarding houses are much the same lines. The accommodation and fare generally are fairly good.

Miss Ronayne,

The Square, Tallow      4      (no bath, 1 w.c. 2 public rms)      No

Mrs. Forde,

Main St., Tallow      2      (no bath, 1 w.c. 2 public rms)      No

Miss Collins,

West St. Tallow      3      (no bath, 1 dry lav, 1 pub rm)      No

Miss Neville,

Barrack St. Tallow      Café, also boot and shoe repairs and dressmaking.

Date: 4.9.43

Signed: Micheal O'Domhnaill

Surveyor