

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.

here

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

On New Year's Day many people will not throw out the ashes or clean out the byres or pay out money.

Milk will not be sold, but is given away by many people on May Day.

Some folk pick garlands of mayflowers on May Eve and place them in their houses.

Shrove Tuesday is "Pancake night" when pancakes are made for tea. On Bonfire's night, June 23rd, fires are lighted in the open air. On Hallow E'en there is the custom of "kicking the cabbage". The young people kick heads of cabbage around the roads.

On St. Martin's Eve a cock is killed and its blood sprinkled in the four corners of the house.

On St. Stephen's day the "wren boys" - youths dressed in fantastic clothing, visit neighbours' houses and sing and play.

Funerals take the longest route to the graveyard.

The chairs on which a coffin rests are tipped over flat as soon as the coffin is carried out to the hearse. (Contd. on

(Signed)

Donald A. Goughman (page 6)

Surveyor.

DATE

Aug. 19th 1944

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The number of candles at a wake is always an odd no.

The corpse must not be left alone from death to the funeral.

Checks are stopped in the house when a death occurs. They are reset when the funeral is over.

The bride should not return to her own home until at least a month after her marriage.

A visitor must always "give a hand with the death" should he call when churning is in progress.

A man may not light his pipe from a coal on the fire when churning is going on.

A pinch of salt is often put into milk given out at night.

The usual superstitions are believed in e.g. spilling salt; walking under a ladder; breaking a mirror; meeting a lone magpie; meeting a red-headed woman when going on business.

Of cures there are none except for:

Chin-cough: "Yessel's leavings" given to the child.

The seventh son has the cure of ringworm.

The mumps are curable by leading the affected person three round the pigsty (seldom practised).