

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.

The Gazebo is one of the most curious landmarks in this part of the country, and the most conspicuous. Forming a double arch of rough stones approximately twenty feet in height, the structure stands ^{here} on the summit of the hill ~~at the base of~~ Castlelacken. From ~~this situation~~ the view of the bay and the ^{country} ~~round about~~ is really wonderful. The origin of the Gazebo seems to be a mystery but it is likely that it was erected early in the last century by the landlord of the place, probably a Knex.

A number of people assert that it was constructed by the Protestant landlord during the Famine Years as a means of alleviating distress amongst the poor. ~~This claim is hardly convincing however since the amount of labour required would not be sufficient to relieve more than a few and besides, it appears from O'Donovan's Letters that the Gazebo was in existence in 1838, nine years before the Famine.~~

In actual fact, as we learn from O'Donovan's Letters, ^{however, that} the "Gazebo" was in existence in 1838, nine years before the Great Famine.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

St. Cummins Well at Ballinlena, Kilcummin is visited by large numbers of people and a station performed there on the last Sunday of July, Garland Sunday. A little girl of about nine years is said to have had her sight restored at this well a generation or two ago. The well is housed in a stone building which has been constructed during the past couple of years and it lies about fifty yards to the north of the old church. ~~This well~~ is about four miles from Carrowmore. ~~(See under)~~

St. Patrick's Well at Feghill is regarded as a holy well and in the opinion of some, is the well at which St. Patrick baptized King Awley with his sons and a host of followers. It is otherwise claimed however, and seems more probable that this took place at Mullaghfarry, in Ballysakeery parish.

In 1936 the well was surrounded by a low wall and a statue of St. Patrick erected above it. The well is within a hundred yards of Lacken Strand, on the Feghill side. ~~An old tradition maintained that there was a wooden cross at the bottom of the well but that cannot now be seen; besides, the original well dried up in recent years and a new well has been opened.~~ This well is also known as Tebar na Craoibhe, (Well of the Branch) and throughout the summer months, large numbers of people make the station here.

St. Cummin's Clay is extracted from a stone covered hole in the churchyard at Ballinlena. There is an ancient belief that the possessor of a handful of the clay will not drown. This custom is still adhered to by many of the local people. The blessed clay must be extracted only by a man of the name Maughan or a woman named Loughney. There are several people of these names in the district who will gladly procure the charm for visitors. Remuneration is left to the generosity of the recipient.

(Signed)

Donal O'Brien
Surveyor.

DATE

June 1st 1943.