

HISTORIC SITES

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

none.

It is said, however, that somewhere near Bohala village a school of classical education was set up by a former land-lord who lived where Mrs. Atkin now resides and that a student for a time at this small school was the famous Archbishop John McHale of Guam.

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.

(a) Birth-place of Martin J. Sheidan.

Martin J. Sheidan was born at Bohala on March 29th 1881. His home was the long thatched cottage (now out-houses) which still stands beside the bungalow of his brother, Joseph Sheidan (whose wife is a sister of Michael Collins).

Martin Sheidan went to America at an early age. He joined the police force in New York and ~~while~~ soon showed signs of amazing athletic prowess. In 1901, at Celtic Park, New York, he won the American discus championship from his brother (who became Police Commissioner for New York). From then Martin Sheidan kept to world-fame. In St. Louis, (1904) he won the Olympic championship for America and again in Athens (1906) and London (1908). In all three Olympic centres he was the all-round champion, discus, pole-vault, hurdles etc. He became the world's champion athlete and is as yet reckoned to be the greatest athlete ever. The discus, however, was his principal accomplishment.

In 1908, when at the peak of his athletic fame, he came back to

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

(none).

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.

Distinguished Irishmen. Page 2.

Ireland and gave exhibitions at Dungannon, Fairview in Dublin, and at Ballina, where, before a huge concourse of people, he unofficially broke his own pole-vault world record by reaching 12' 6". He also surpassed his discus record at this venue.

He returned to America in 1908 and for many years continued as all-round champion. In 1919 he took ill suddenly of influenza followed by pneumonia and died on March 27th of that year.

On May 8th 1921, a Celtic Cross was ceremoniously unveiled to his memory, in Calvary Cemetery, Long Island City.

The pole which he used in the exhibition at Ballina (1908), was presented to him by the King of Greece at the Olympic games in Athens (1906). This pole is now in the shop of Mrs. Michael Clarke, Bohola. Also a photograph taken at the commencement of his record vault at Ballina. His discus is in the possession of Mrs. Michael Hurst, Swinford.

William J. O'Dwyers, now Colonel O'Dwyers in the United States service at Washington. Born in his surname in the house owned by Mrs. Bernard Dunkin N.T. (brother-in-law).

Colonel O'Dwyers studied, as a youth, at Salamanca but forsaking a clerical vocation, he worked his way to America where he met his fellow-patriot, Martin Shendan, who was his great friend. During spells of hard manual labour he studied law. Then he worked his passage to South America where he obtained a knowledge of Spanish, later to be of much use to him. On his return to America he practised as a lawyer. Later propped justice O'Dwyers he was beaten by a very narrow margin by La Guardia in the election for Mayor of New York. He was a very prominent member of the Mayo Men's Association in America.