

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.

Windmill in Ardkill. George Browne. This, which looks in the distance like a round tower, is circular and some 35/40 ft. high and is 16 in diameter (ground floor). The next four upper floors — only the shell of the building now stands. The ground floor wall is 50" thick. A slab which is inserted in a beam wall nearby has the inscription "Built by Denis Browne 1787" and refers to the mill. A line of malt houses stood in the lower ground beneath the mill. (Has much very externally)

A hole in a stone of the west wall of the north transept of Kill Abbey. A stone on the ground some 15' away. Whoever can, with closed eyes and outstretched hand walk from the mark to the hole in the stone and place his fingers in the hole without pausing, will "soon be rewarded with a spot of gold."

"Croc an Duin" in Yenchubrick — a well from which a small stream makes exit from
CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC. subterranean source.
Brief account of old customs, traditional cures, etc., still practised in the district. Pilgrimages to Holy Wells, Shrines, etc. Patterns.

"Cobair Ceary" in Killeen (incl. Murphy's) — once attended by large numbers of people but now only infrequently visited by locals. The station consists of walking round the well 7 times, saying each time, a Pater, Gloria Ave. and Gloria. Then going on knees to the well edge and afterwards standing in the water — three times. A visitor brings two pebbles which he leaves in the heap near the well.

Old customs are almost dead in the area. A few people make the St. Brigid's crosses. "Bonfire night" is observed. Also St. Martin's Eve by sprinkling the blood of a fowl after killing it. Here are the "Wren Boys" on St. Stephen's Day. Local superstitions include the tipping over of chairs on which the coffin has rested before leaving wakes — which are occasionally observed. Stepping clocks in the house in which a dead person lies — taking longest route to the graveyard — observance of the rule that a bride must not return to her own home until a month after her marriage — visitor assisting with churning.

(Signed) Donald A. Yaghman
Surveyor.

DATE July 7th 1945.