

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.

Over each of two windows in the house of George Shanley of Melans — beside the abbey, is inset in the wall a panel of stone. One bears the inscription: — "magna aliena parva; parva propria magna" lit. "the great things of others are petty; the small things of our own selves are important."

The second window is "Rure tibi dum visceris; alius vivas nolo" — a contrast of town and country life.

Apparently the stones belonged to the house of Mr. Shanley, last friar of Melans who lived beside the abbey and whose relative is Mr. Geo. Shanley, present owner.

Two gravestones in the abbey are interesting. One lies near the castle vault. It is 5'9" by 28". The embossed lettering, almost 2" high, is placed around the edges of the stone so that one has to read the inscription by starting top left, across to right-hand corners, down to right bottom

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC. (CONTD. ON PAGE 16)

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

On August 14th each year there is a pattern at Melans Abbey. Always it is attended by a large crowd. Mass is celebrated at the abbey and usually, if possible, by a young, newly consecrated priest after mass the people spend some time in prayers at the graves of deceased relatives. Men then clean and make tidy the graves.

A sports is later held in some nearby field. The crowd also visits the "Cullisei Dub". There is boating on the lake and general greetings and conversations between friends. Several stalls sell souveners, sweets etc. and the pattern goes on till evening.

The Sunday following pattern day is a special day for "finishing up the pattern". The young people of the locality visit the abbey and spend most of the day disposing themselves on the lake and on the "Cullisei Dub".

AUGUST 14th IS THE FEAST OF ST. DOMING

Jan. 1st. Many people will not pay out money so clean the lynes or throw out the robes. Considered unlucky.

(CONTD. ON PAGE 17)

Shrove Tuesday is "Pencake night"

(Signed)

Donald A. Faragher.

Surveyor.

DATE Aug. 5th 1944

comes, over to left, and up the left-hand side of the stone. There are two or three rounds of lettering. Some of it reads: - "Pray for the soul of ^{Thomas} Costello who died in the year 1720 of our Lord 1720 and for the soul of M. Costello who died in the year 1780.

On the interior southern abutment wall is fixed a stone to the Duffin family. On the stone are cut an anvil, pickaxe, hammer cross, and the letters I. H. S.

Near Slannus cross-roads (and school), in the semi-mountain rock country, is a boulder with a depression, said to be the imprint of a giant's foot. The giant was called "Dub Abra". (A mile away, in Ramacassa, Killybegh parish, is "Dub Abra's grave - chambered cairn"). Not of particular interest.

In Lancheg - in J. Heenan's, is a small boulder with a depression not unlike a horse's foot hoof. No legend and not of particular interest.

May Day:- milk will not be lent, sold or given away. There will a coal be given to light a neighbour's fire.

June 23rd:- "Bonfire's night" when fires are lighted in the open.

Hallow E'en:- "Kicking the cabbage". Cabbage is kicked around the roads.

St. Martin's night:- a fowl is killed and its blood sprinkled in the four corners of the house. Prevents sickness.

St. Stephen's Day:- The "Wren boys" or nummers who go from house to house dressed in fantastic clothing and provide entertainment

Deaths.

The funeral takes the longest route to the graveyard.

The chairs on which a coffin rests are tipped over as soon as the coffin is brought out to the hearse.

The number of candles at a wake is an odd number.

Clocks are sometimes stopped in the house when a death occurs. They are set going after the funeral.

Gravediggers sometimes leave shovel and spade in the form of a cross over the open grave until the funeral.

Wakes are held. They are quiet and decorous.

The visitor should give a hand with the shrouding.

The Sign of the Cross is made over the shroun before shrouding.