

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 "Musical" Bridge at Bellacerick is widely known for its musical qualities. Visitors who have heard of the phenomena, procure a stone of a few pounds weight and run along the bridge, tapping the same on the northern parapet, that on the right when proceeding from Ballina. By reason of some remarkable freak of the masonry, the full octave is sounded in this manner (~~perhaps it is Free-masonry~~). It is not necessary of course, to run the length of the bridge. Some prefer to roll the stone along the top of the parapet, when the musical effect will be obtained according to the skill of the player or stone-thrower.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Stations are made at the Monument on Mount Jubilee Hill on August 15th but this practice is dying out and is performed only by local people.

There is an old tradition that the Blessed Virgin appeared on the Hillside to an inhabitant of the village when he was returning home one night at a late hour. The man claimed to have seen a ladder either descending from or ascending to the Heavens, with the Blessed Virgin on or near the ladder. On the following day he was unable to identify the exact site of the Visitation and Bishop of Killala, John MacHale, who was later to become Archbishop of Tuam came to the spot and rolled a stone from the summit of the hill. Where the stone rested, the bishop identified as the site and he had a small church erected here. Masses were celebrated in the little church for some years; the first ceremony I believe to have been held in 1828 and the name of the hill was changed from Tristia to Mount Jubilee in commemoration of this remarkable event.

Mount Jubilee is about four miles from Banger, on the right of the road to Geesala. The little church is now in ruins but portion of the walls remain and the little stone altar may still be seen. The monument is on the lands of Mr John Gaughan, Geesala.

(Signed)

David O'Brien
Surveyor.

DATE

11/8/13.