

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.

None except for a grave stone in Temple graveyard with the inscription: gloria in excelsis Deo.

Here lies the remains of the Revd. Mr. Gilan who departed this life Jan. 7th 1828. He often preached for his flock so may they often pray for his soul.

CUSTOMS, PATTERNS, ETC.

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

Pattern to St. Abtracta's well in Temple graveyard. This is held on the 11th August each year. The people, and especially the young folk, congregate at the well, the Rosary is said and the people kneel and say their own prayers. Some take away water from the well. A children's sports is then held. The day is really a children's day.

On New Year's day some people will not put out the ashes or clean out the byres or pay out money.

On May Day milk will not be sold, but is given away. There will a coal be given to light a neighbour's fire.

On May Eve, may flowers are picked by some people and placed in the houses. Some folk put the mayflowers to the cows' udders for luck.

A few people make St. Brigid's crosses on St. Brigid's Eve. These are made of straw.

On Bonfire's night, gun strod, fires are lighted in the open air.

(Signed) Donal A. Yaghman.

Surveyor.

DATE

30/8/1944

On November's night (Hallow E'en) there is the somewhat objectionable custom, disliked by many people, of "kicking the cabbage." Young folks root up the cabbage from gardens and kick them round the roads. Charlestown's streets are usually littered with cabbage leaves on the morning after. On St. Martin's Eve a cock is killed and its blood sprinkled in the four corners of the house.

On St. Stephen's day there are the "Wren Boys" or mimmers, youths dressed in fantastic clothing, visit houses and sing and play and dance and are suitably rewarded.

Deaths.

Funerals take the longest route to the graveyard.

The number of candles at a wake must be an odd number.

Clocks are stopped in the house when a death occurs.

The laid-out corpse is never left alone in the room from death to hearing.

That the "corpse is hiker" is a sign that another death will occur in the house.

The chains on which the coffin rests are always tipped over flat on the ground as soon as the coffin is removed to the hearse.

Gravediggers leave spade & shovel in cross fashion over the open grave until the interment.

Should two deaths occur in the same household within a short period, the relatives will cross three times the grave of the deceased after interment to ward off further deaths.

Marrriages.

The bride should not return to her own home until a month after her marriage.

"Something borrowed, something new; something old and something blue" - This advice for brides at the marriage ceremony.

Churning.

A visitor should always give a hand with the dash.

A man may not light his pipe from a coal of the fire while churning is in progress.

Cures.

Ring-worm cured by the seventh son.

Chin-cough by "fruit's leavings".

Toothache. Rub a corpse's finger around the gums to prevent toothache for a lifetime.

The boiled juice of the dandelion for heart trouble.

Scarlet Pimpernel, pounded and boiled and the juice taken daily for kidney trouble.

There are one or two traditional cures in the area. The cure of the wote in the eye is performed. Consists of removing a wote in the affected person's eye without touching the eye and showing the wote in a cup of water.

"Head-fever" is also cured by massaging the head three times and prescribing for the headaches.