

Mayo Heritage

Newsletter

YouTube



The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre

Read about
St. Patrick
In his own words
Extract from
St. Patrick's Confessio

A brief history of
Crosspatrick



In his work as a missionary, it is believed that Saint Patrick used a SHAMROCK. He used it as a metaphor to explain the Holy Trinity – where the three leaves represented God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Since it was used by Saint Patrick, the shamrock has been associated with Ireland and is often a symbol of Ireland.

Cover image: St. Patrick's Cathedral in Killala, one of many local buildings bearing his name and lending credence to his association with the area (image from northmayo.ie)



Lá fhéile Pádraig
sona daoibh!

St. Patrick: One of our own

“My name is Patrick. I am a sinner, a simple country person, and the least of all believers. I am looked down upon by many. My father was Calpornius. He was a deacon; his father was Potitus, a priest, who lived at Bannavem Taburniae. His home was near there, and that is where I was taken prisoner. I was about sixteen at the time. At that time, I did not know the true God. I was taken into captivity in Ireland, along with thousands of others. We deserved this, because we had gone away from God, and did not keep his commandments.”

These are the words of St. Patrick written down in his *Confessio* which forms part of The Book of Armagh, thought to have been written between 810 and 850. The Book of Armagh contains two accounts of the life of St Patrick, written two centuries earlier. He was born at the end of Roman rule in Britain, c390. Patrick is thought to have been active in Ireland in the fifth century and ended up being the first Bishop of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland. Although never formally canonised by a pope, he is recognised as a saint in both the Roman and Orthodox churches. Legend has it that he is buried in Downpatrick Cathedral in Co Down. In his own words in his *Confessio*, Patrick describes how he was held captive in Ireland for six years at a forested place called Foclut.



Patrick then escaped home to Britain, some say it was to Wales, some to Cumbria, where he deepened his Christian beliefs. A few years later he says:

“I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: The Voice of the Irish.

As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea—and they cried out, as with one voice: ‘We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us’.”

The ancient forest of Foclut (anglicised today to Foghill) is the only Irish place name Patrick mentions. It is generally believed to have extended along the north Mayo coast from Lacken Bay, Rathfran and down the west coast of Killala Bay beyond the present day town of Killala to Crosspatrick.

Local folklore, and numerous sites bearing Patrick's name, appear to lend credence to this connection. From the name Crosspatrick itself, to the legend of Crom Dubh, from Downpatrick Head and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Killala. The Cathedral was founded on an ancient ecclesiastical site founded by Patrick himself. He then appointed his disciple, Muredach to oversee it. The Cathedral in Ballina is dedicated to St. Muredach.

Patrick is said to have died on March 17, AD461.



Extract from
Ordnance Survey Letter of 1838

Brief history of the townland of **CROSSPATRICK** (*Cros Phádrúig*, St. Patrick's Cross)

Located in the south of the parish of Killala. Bounded on the north by Meelick and Moyne townlands; east and south by Ballysakeery parish; and west by the townlands of Upper and Lower Tawnaghmore and Meelick. It contains 166 acres, 3 roods, 10 perches, including 1 acre, 0 roods, 4 perches of water. The property of P. Boyd, Castlebar, and is held by James Knox, who lives in Crosspatrick House, built in the year 1832. The land is let on leases of 21 years at £2 7 shillings 6d. yearly. Soil, heavy clay, producing barley, oats, flax, potatoes, etc. There is a graveyard to the west of Crosspatrick House.

Become a **FRIEND** of the **North Mayo Heritage Centre**



Details coming soon!

Mother's Day – the history!

In past centuries the day was known as “Mid-Lent Sunday” and the focus for people was on returning to their “mother church” where they were baptised as a child. However, after World War II the date of this religious observance and the current Mother's



Day celebrations essentially merged in Ireland and much of Europe. Today the focus of Mother's Day in Ireland is much the same as elsewhere in the world – celebrating Mums and grandmothers with gifts, flowers and special meals.

Extract from www.publicholidays.ie

Are you interested in tracing your Mayo roots?

If you are interested in professional help to research your family history or curious about your ancestry, why not contact us. All research can be done remotely.

Perhaps we can help you!

Tel: 096 31809 Email: northmayo@gmail.com or visit northmayogenealogy.com

(Image right: Faulmore, Erris peninsula 1935 – from duchas.ie A015.03.00353)

