

North Mayo Heritage Centre



The North Mayo Heritage Centre

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NEWSLETTER

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Feature Article

The Schools' Folklore Collection

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MAYO ANCESTORS

The townland of Glenulra

A brief history

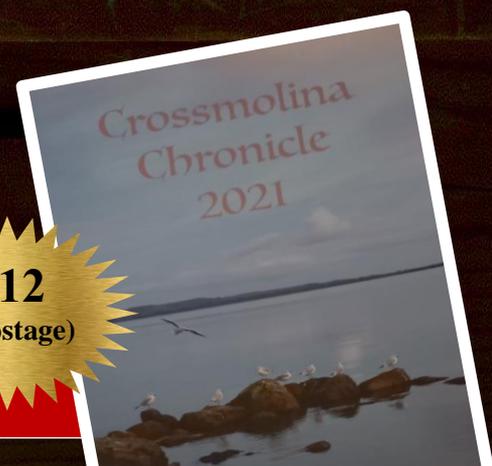
BOOK OF THE WEEK

Crossmolina Chronicle 2021

Buy it now from our eBay bookstore

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The North Mayo Heritage Centre is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the region

The Schools' Folklore Collection

This collecting scheme is generally known as “The Schools’ Collection” or “*Bailiúchán na Scol*”. It is the result of an innovative project which was initiated by the Irish Folklore Commission between 1937 and 1939 under the direction of Séamus Ó Duilearga and Seán O’Súilleabháin, Honorary Director and Registrar of the Commission respectively.^[1]

They relied heavily on the co-operation and assistance from the Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers’ Organisation. The project was described by Séamus Ó Catháin, former director of the National Folklore Commission (NFC), “as a snapshot of the state of Irish tradition across the greater part of Ireland, a long exposure taken over a period of eighteen months, and it is representative of a wide body of lore and custom as varied and diverse as the communities from which it was originally gathered”.^[2]

During the extent of this project, over 50,000 school children (generally fifth and sixth class pupils) from 5,000 primary schools in the 26 counties of the Irish Free State were signed up and given the task of collecting folklore in their local areas.

The principal teachers explained to the senior pupils the topics to use as set out by the commission in a small handbook titled “Irish Folklore and Tradition”. These topics included oral history, some topographical information, folktales and legends, riddles and proverbs, cures and herbs, games and pastimes, local craft, and customs. The schoolchildren gathered information from their parents, grandparents, neighbours, and any other members from their local community who could assist them.

The material was first written into their homework exercise copybooks and was later rewritten into larger official ones that had been specially provided for the project.

The completed official copybooks were bound, paginated, and numbered according to the parish, barony, county, and province. These copybooks were all boxed, labelled and numbered according to their corresponding manuscripts, and are now stored at the National Folklore Collection (NFC) which is located at University College Dublin (UCD).

This collection has now been digitised and is available to view online through the Dúchas website at: <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes>^[3].

It has proven useful as a genealogical source of information in addition to a local source of research.

1. <https://www.duchas.ie/en/info/cbe>
2. <https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ivrla:30350>
3. <https://www.ucd.ie/folklore/en/collections>



Taken from the Ordnance Survey Namebooks of 1838

The townland of **GLENULRA**

(*Gleann Iolra*, valley of the eagles).

Some say the valley gets its name from St. Iollaran.

Located in the north of the parish of Ballycastle (Doonfeeny). Bounded on the north by the Atlantic Ocean; east by Upper and Lower Doonfeeny, Mungelly and Ballyknock; south by Sralagagh West; and west by Behy. It contains 2,164 acres, 3 roods, 10 perches*. The property of John Knox, Esq., Castlereaugh.

Mr. Anthony Madden resides in this townland, half of which he occupies for grazing. The remainder is let to tenants at will at £100 yearly. At the north-east point on the boundary, near the sea, is a remarkable hole, called Polladarky, from which there is a subterraneous passage to the sea. The Glenulra River runs through this townland.

* There are 40 perches in a rood, and 4 roods in an acre.

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Exciting Business Opportunity

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Recognised destination within the North Mayo region

Annual footfall; 25,000

Established Green Flag & Heritage Flag site

Established annual Cultural programme of events & exhibitions

Established annual Training programme

Established links with hotels and tour operators

Access to Looped Walks and gardens

Close proximity to Enniscoe House, Castlehill



Close to population centers
Crossmolina; 4km, Ballina; 16km
Castlebar; 31km, Westport; 43k

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