

North Mayo Heritage Centre

NEWSLETTER

Happy Easter

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The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre

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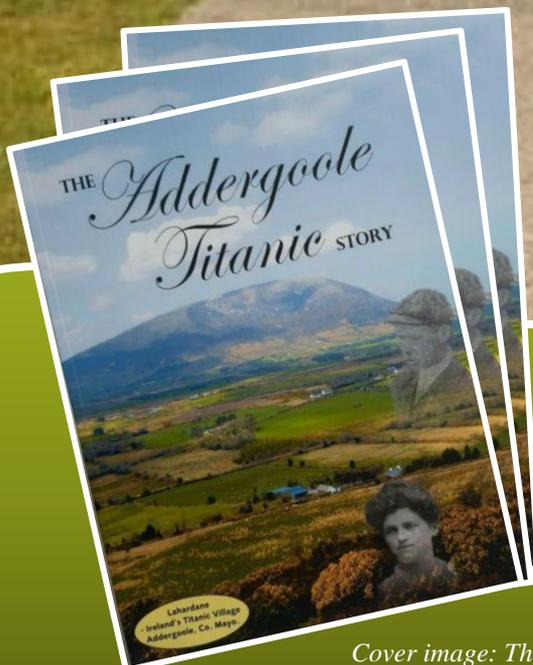
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Feature article

Easter Saturday Traditions

Book of the Week

The Addergoole Titanic Story



BOOK OF THE WEEK

The Addergoole Titanic Story

This book is dedicated to the fourteen passengers from the parish of Addergoole, Co. Mayo, Ireland who perished aboard the RMS Titanic in April, 1912 and their descendant relatives.

Buy online now from our ebay bookstore. €12 (+postage)

Cover image: The Titanic Park, Lahardane in the parish of Addergoole, (from Addergoole-titanic.com)

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

Since its origins, Easter has been a time of celebration and feasting and many traditional Easter customs developed.

Herring Processions

The Irish Lenten season was once a time of severe austerity and abstinence, which demanded no merrymaking, music, or meat. Not one good Christian soul would buy beef, or any other kind of animal product during this time.

The main source of protein for the long, drawn-out days of fasting was herring as it was inexpensive and plentiful. Subsequently, the butchers celebrated the arrival of Easter and the return of normal business by holding a mock funeral for the herring.

Throughout the land, butchers typically organised the Herring Processions on Easter Saturday, the final day of Lent. They would hang a herring on a long stick; it was then paraded through the town or village.

Following behind were the people who had suffered economic loss i.e., the butchers, the workers in the slaughterhouses, the porters, and the errand boys. Each of them brought a rod to strike the herring until there was almost nothing left of it. Insults were hurled at the remnants, and it was then scornfully thrown into the local river.

A quarter of lamb was hung in its place on the long stick which was adorned with flowers and ribbons. The procession victoriously returned through the streets escorted by musicians and gleeful cheers from the crowds along the route.

In Drogheda, Co. Louth, the custom was called "Whipping the Herring". Here, it was the butcher boys who collected and secured dozens of herrings to a long rope. One of the boys would toss the rope over his shoulder and run, pulling the line of fish behind him.

The other boys would give chase with whips and sticks, constantly thrashing at the fish until not even a fin remained.

Easter Water

The blessing of Easter holy water is part of the church's ceremonies on Easter Saturday. It was once believed that this Easter water had the power to prevent illness and protect against danger.

Therefore, one member from each household would ensure to bring home a small container of it. Every person in a family drank three sips of the water in the name of the Blessed Trinity.

It was also sprinkled on the house, its occupants, the outbuildings, livestock, and growing crops. Any of it that remained, was then stored carefully for future use, and, according to tradition, it would remain fresh indefinitely.

Paschal or Easter Fire

The Paschal or Easter Fire was traditionally lit at sunset at the Easter Vigil Mass to symbolise Christ's resurrection. It was believed to bring prosperity and to prevent damage by fire. People formerly brought turf cinders to the church to be blessed for this purpose.

Cludóg/Clúideog

On this day, children would call from house to house to collect eggs.



They were gathered so the children could make their own Easter Sunday feast to be held in an outbuilding or field where they could build a little "house" or fireplace to cook the eggs. This custom was widely known as "cludóg" or clúideog, a term referring to the custom itself, to the collected eggs or to the little structure in which the eggs were cooked.

Sources:

The Year in Ireland – Ireland Calendar Customs by K. Danaher
www.duchas.ie
www.irishcultureandcustoms.com

A brief history of The Townland of

TONACROCK / TONACRICK

(*Tóin a' Chnuic*, bottom of the hill)

Located in the north-east of the parish of Addergoole, it contains 319 acres, 3 roods, 15 perches*, statute measure. Proprietor, Philip York, Esq. Let to 23 occupying tenants at will, all Catholics, at a yearly rent of from £2 to £26 a farm. Co. Cess**, from 4 shillings to 25 shillings each tenant, annually. Tithe is withheld by tenantry.

Soil rocky, producing oats and potatoes. Prevailing Family Names – Ruane and Padden. There is one fort in this townland, and the Addergoole River is on the west of the townland, flowing between it and Knockfarnaght townland.

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

** The County Cess was a form of local taxation. It is derived from the word 'assessment'.

Extract from Ordnance Survey Namebooks of 1838

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