

Schools' Collection material from Co. Leitrim and Irish Surname Index now available on www.duchas.ie

Folklore and local history from Co. Leitrim is now available to read on www.duchas.ie.

The Schools' Collection, an important component of the National Folklore Collection, UCD, contains the folklore material recorded by pupils between 1937 and 1939. It consists of over 500,000 pages of material recorded by around 50,000 pupils in more than 5,000 schools in the 26 counties.

A significant portion of the Schools' Collection will be available online in a new repository of Irish folklore, dúchas.ie, before the end of 2016. Folklore material from Dublin, Mayo, Donegal, Waterford and Galway has already been made available on the site in the past year. dúchas.ie is the result of a partnership, beginning in 2012, between the National Folklore Collection (UCD), Fiontar (DCU) and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The site will be of interest to a great many Irish people and to the Irish diaspora. For specialist researchers in the fields of folkloristics, local history, archaeology, genealogy, linguistics, and a range of other disciplines, dúchas.ie offers considerable research potential. The site can currently be searched by place or by person, and a search facility according to topic will be made available in the near future.

In late July 1935, Séamus Ó Duilearga, Honorary Director of the Irish Folklore Commission, spoke at a meeting of the Leitrim branches of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation. He described the Schools' Scheme and its importance in collecting folklore from around the country and from Leitrim in particular, as reported in *The Leitrim Observer* (27.07.1935): 'Leitrim teems with associations of ancient days, and as it is pointed out that it is one of the richest in oral traditions and folklore of any of the counties of Ireland, the material is at hand ripe for the picking'.

Almost 150 schools in Leitrim took part in the scheme and 40 large volumes of material were compiled. Although the material is mainly in English, there are some examples of Leitrim Irish in the collection.

The Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs, Joe McHugh, TD, said, 'This is yet another important step in this innovative project as material relating to traditional life in Ireland in years past will be made available to the general public. This new material will enable researchers and many others to contrast life as it is today and life as it was over 80 years ago.'

Irish Surname Index – almost 3,000 surnames available

This is a collection of surnames created from some of the holdings of the National Folklore Collection and it is being made available on dúchas.ie under an open licence by Fiontar (DCU) and the National Folklore Collection (UCD). To search the collection and find out more about its history, please visit <http://www.duchas.ie/en/nom>.

The site dúchas.ie is developed by Fiontar, the Irish-medium teaching and research unit in DCU, and the National Folklore Collection in UCD, one of the largest folklore collections in the world. The project is jointly financed by UCD and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with support from the National Lottery.

The Digital Repository of Ireland acts in an advisory role in the work of dúchas.ie and on standards and interoperability in digital archiving.

Note: From January 2015, the public will have the opportunity to participate in this project. Further information is available at duchas.ie/en/info/crowd or from eolas@duchas.ie.



An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of
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