

Schools' Collection material from Co. Kilkenny now available on www.duchas.ie

Folklore and local history from Co. Kilkenny is now available 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 half a million pages recorded by around 50,000 primary school pupils in the 26 counties.

Material from the Schools' Collection has been published on an ongoing basis on dúchas.ie since the end of 2013 and all volumes from the Collection, covering all 26 counties, will be available by the end of 2016. Folklore material from Dublin, Mayo, Donegal, Waterford, Galway, Leitrim, Kildare, Kerry, Sligo, Limerick, Monaghan and Laois has already been made available on the site since the end of 2013. 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 this year.

Almost 115 schools in Co. Kilkenny took part in the scheme and 30 volumes of material were compiled.

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.'

The dúchas.ie project 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 relating to standards and interoperability in digital archiving.

ENDS

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Notes for the editor:**Stories from Co. Kilkenny**

It's no surprise that Kilkenny's strong hurling tradition is mentioned in the county's folklore in the Schools' Collection. Not only that, but hurling is discussed in the songs as well. This is an example of a [song](#) about hurlers and their feats. Even the fairies in Kilkenny like the sport, according to [this story](#) anyway!

James Freney was one of the county's outlaws, and there are plenty of stories to be found about him in the Schools' Collection. He is mentioned in two interesting stories [here](#) and [here](#), and is described as **Ireland's Robin Hood**.

As well as that, the county has a strong connection with **Saint Canice**. He is described in [this](#) story, and there's information about the cathedral named after him [here](#). [This](#) is a picture of his well.

Another notable ecclesiastic site is The Black Abbey and you can read more about it [here](#).

Kilkenny city was attacked during **Cromwell's** time in Ireland and an insight into the attacks is given in [this](#) account. A certain amount of protection was given by the [city walls](#), but as we know, Cromwell and his brutal campaign were successful. Another interesting story is '**Priest-Hunting**', which describes a common activity during the time of the Penal Laws, and you can read it [here](#). Things are not always as they seem, however – you'll have to read the story to get a full understanding of the interesting title!

Kilkenny is famous for the **marble** that was found there and there's more information about the **Marble Mills** [here](#).

We often come across unusual snippets of information in this collection, like the description of '**Freak Eggs**' as they used to be called, in [this](#) story. As well as this, not only has there been a **Puck Fair** in Killorglin for a long time, but there used to be a [puck fair](#) in Kilkenny in olden times too.

Students from Coláiste Pobail Osraí, Kilkenny, are currently reading through this material on dúchas.ie and an article based on their findings will be published on the [gaois.ie](#) blog in the weeks to come.