

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

Folklore and local history from Co. Meath 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 duchas.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, Laois, Kilkenny, Louth, Tipperary, Cavan and Longford has already been made available on the site since the end of 2013. duchas.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, duchas.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 120 schools in Co. Meath took part in the scheme and 37 volumes of material were compiled.

The Minister of State for Gaeltacht Affairs, Seán Kyne, 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 duchas.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.

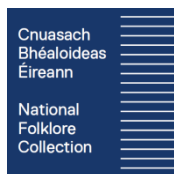
The Digital Repository of Ireland acts in an advisory role in the work of duchas.ie relating to standards and interoperability in digital archiving.

ENDS

For more information, contact Clare Coughlan

clare.coughlan@dcu.ie

(01) 700 6577



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



Notes for the editor:

Stories from County Meath

There are many interesting stories from County Meath in the Schools' Collection. Of course, there is a strong connection between Meath and royalty. Long ago it was the heart of the country with the High King of Ireland located in [Tara](#).

The river Boyne is central to the history of Meath. We have a wide variety of entries relating to the Boyne including [folklore](#), [songs](#) agus references to historic events such as the [Battle of the Boyne](#).

There are many important castles in the Royal County. Trim Castle is the largest Norman castle in Ireland and nowadays is a major attraction for tourists. This [story](#) tells of a tunnel which runs between Newtown in Trim and Ballivor.

It is said that foxes come to Gormanston Castle when someone dies. There are four stories relating to this in the collection: [Lord Gormanstown and the Fox](#), [Gormanstown Castle](#), [A Legend about Gormanstown Castle](#) and [The Foxes and the Gormanstown Family](#), with each story slightly different from the next.

According to this [story](#) written in Mercy Convent, Navan, the castle in Dunsany has a legend associated with it. The [history of Slane Castle](#), now recognised internationally as a concert venue, can be found in the collection too.

With regard to 1916, there are two entries relating to the Easter Rising in Meath – [1916](#) agus [James Fox, a Boy Hero in 1916](#). There are also tales relating to the 1798 rebellion from [Dunboyne](#), [Kilbride](#) and [Navan](#).