

DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



SEUMAS McMANUS (1868 – 1960)

Storytelling in his native Mountcharles in the 1950s

Seumas Mc Manus son of Patrick Mc Manus and Mary Molloy was born in Mountcharles on 31 December 1868. Educated at Glencoagh School and afterwards at teacher training in the Model School in Enniskillen. He later returned as principal to Glencoagh.

Interested in history and folklore he began contributing to Dublin magazines and later Shan Van Vocht (Belfast). As delegate to I.N.T.O Congress in 1896 he met the editor Ethna Carbery. He was instrumental in founding the Gaelic League in Donegal and later the GAA.

In 1898 he resigned his school and went to America where he succeeded in having much of his collected material published in magazines like `Harper's' and `Mc Clures'. On returning to Ireland he married Ethna Carbery but she died within the year. He later remarried Venezuelan writer Catarina Paez in America. He embarked on the literary circuit and continued writing. In Brenda O' Hanrahan's `Donegal Authors' 144 items are listed under his name - novels, short stories, plays and poems etc.

Returning to Mountcharles every summer he frequently told stories to the children seated at the village pump. He died in 1960 and is buried in the same grave as Ethna Carbery.