

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

MAYO NORTH HERITAGE CENTRE



McHALE'S FORGE

Martin McHale was born in Aughalonteen Lahardane the son of Blacksmith John McHale who started smithing about 1910. Apart from his farrier work he repaired farm machinery, made household implements and passed his trade on to Martin. The Forge (still standing) was a meeting place for the local country people and many stories emanating from the forge are still recalled.

Martin was a clever man kept accounts for his business and composed songs.

The following is an example:

18-8-1949	2 hind shoes and 2 foremost removed	9 shillings
22-9-1949	Odd jobs	4 shillings
28-9-1949	1 set on bay horse	14 shillings

Bachelors

*There are some bachelors in those town-lands
Their names I here won't mention
But to sing a song of what they have done wrong
It is now my intention.
When they were young
They would be advised by none
When told it was time to marry
By now, as they are getting old
They are heartbroken and sorry.*

PJ Lynn, thanks to Michael Molloy