

## HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

### ST. MOCHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY TIMAHOE



### OLD OUTHOUSE – COOLERAGH – CO. KILDARE

Above is a picture of an old outhouse on my farm at Cooleragh. This was the farmhouse in the early nineteenth century. I imagine it was thatched in those days, as were all the farm sheds also. On the night of the big wind 6-7 January 1839 it was the only dwelling house in the area that kept its roof. So all the neighbours came to spend the night.

The roof was spared because it got shelter from the fort (circle of trees). By midnight on that night the wind had reached hurricane force and windows and doors were smashed. Many thought the end of the world was at hand. The straw off the roofs in Blackwood was said to have reached Ballinafagh, two and a half miles distant. Naas Town was very hard hit. "There is no such thing as the town of Naas anymore" people were heard to say!

**Text and Picture:** Maureen Cusack, Hon Pres of St. Mochua Historical Society, Timahoe