

Hedge - Schools

About eighty years ago a hedge school was held in the glen, ~~bratloe~~ West, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick. It was called the "Glen Academy". The above-mentioned school was held in an out-house in Richard Woulfe's yard the glen. Another was held at Hatnett's cross near where Healy's forge now stands. A third was held in Knockna gotna Athea and a fourth in glena gower. Michael Sheahan was teaching at the glen at Knockna gotna and at Hatnett's cross.

John Pettyman taught in Knockna gotna and Denny Wern taught at Hatnett's cross previous to Michael Sheahan taking control of the school. Michael Sheahan was a native of Knockna gotna, Athea. Pettyman, a native of Kerry, came as a poor scholar to Athea. At night schools were carried on in the farmers' houses where the teachers lodged. They were paid by local subscription from the pupils' parents and their meals were provided where they lodged. Irish was not taught but fluently spoken by the teachers and pupils.

The

subjects that were taught in these schools were:-
 English, Geography, History, Arithmetic, and religious
 instructions. Frequently they made remarks about
 the Irish. They always thought that it was easier to
 teach it than the English. Writing was done with
 quills and a pencil got from the local streams.

The children were formed in classes and were seated
 on various rough bog deal sticks. All writing was
 done on the knee on a rough slate polished by the
 pupils. Some of the teachers remained in each
 district for a number of years. Michael Sheahan
 did so but the rest seemed to be wandering
 from place to place.

Told by Mrs Katherine O Connor
 To Mary O Connor
 Cratloe West

Labourer's Widow

Abbeyfeale
 Co. Limerick.

Mrs O Connor is now nearing
 her hundredth year.

(died Nov. 1938)