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**Father Moore's Well at
Rathbride, County Kildare.**

BY W. FITZGERALD

This Blessed Well is situated by the side of a boreen, a few perches in from the public road, leading from Kildare to Milltown, it is visited for cures at all seasons of the year, especially on Fridays.

Father John Moore lived with his mother in a thatched house a short distance beyond the well, of which nothing but the walls is now standing. He had remarkable gift in effecting cures of various ailments, and before his death, in 1826, he blessed this Well in order that those performing stations at it might still be cured after he had passed away, hence it became known as "Father Moore's Well", and the sticks and crutches stuck in the soft ground on the Well's margin, left behind by those who had no further need of them, fully attest its curative powers, the wooden crosses placed at the Well, in like manner, were brought by those who, in gratitude for their cures, returned to the Well for that purpose.

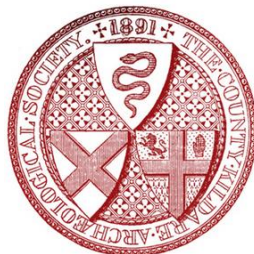


An old man of the name of Richard Ryan, who holds the farm on which the Well is situated, related to me in 1892 a very special remarkable story in connection with Father Moore, the pith of which was that so great had his fame in healing become that the local gentry reported him to his bishop as being a public scandal. The Bishop accordingly paid Father Moore a visit, accompanied by Father Brennan, P.P. of Kildare, and other clergy, and on meeting him told him that he must cease living the life he did, as his work was being attributed to supernatural means. Father Moore respectfully, but firmly, replied that he would never, while life lasted, stop relieving to the best of his power those who suffered, and he appealed to the Bishop to know if he did not think that he was doing good. He then ordered that two candles should be brought into the room and placed on the table and putting on his stole he commenced devoutly to read aloud from the Bible, after a little he stopped, and going up to the candles he breathed on them, and immediate they became ignited. Father Moore then dared anyone present to extinguish them, but no one attempted to do so. The Bishop thereupon being convinced that Father Moore's extraordinary power was given to him from Above, simply said, "Father Moore, continue your good work," and departed.



FATHER MOORE'S WELL AT RATHBRIDE.
[From a Photograph by W. FERG., 1892.]

This good man has been said by some people to have been a "silenced" priest, but such was not the case, as he is stated on the best authority to have refused a parish in order that, by prayer and fasting, he might devote himself solely to the relief of those who suffer from bodily ailments.



Father Moore's death took place, at the early age of forty-seven, on the 12th of March 1826, and he was buried at the west end of the chapel ruins at Allen. A large slab, or table-tomb, marking his grave and that of two other priests, bears the following inscriptions: -

**Reliquiae Rev Gulielmi Lawler,
Parochi de Allen, Diocesis Kildariensis, Decani Publici Parohi (sic)
Impensis hic tumulantur, obiit die 11
Decembris Anno 1802. Etatis ann 75
Et etiam reliquiae Rev
qui obit 12 Martii 1826 et Etatis 47.
Insuper
Et reliquiae Rev Iohannis Lawer,
qui vices hujusce Parochiae
per viginti octo annos gerebat; & qui
sciemia & morum simplicitate omnibus charus
e saeculo migravit die 21 (sis) Iulii A.D. 1830
Etatis suae 75
Requiescant in pace.**

There is in existence one relic of Father Moore preserved in the locality, it is his silk chimney-pot hat, which is in charge of a blacksmith named Forde, who lives in a thatched house by the side of the Milltown Road, a short distance away. This hat is used as a cure for headaches, the sufferer after visiting the Well proceeds to Forde's house, and after reciting some prayers, places the hat, and obtains relief. The hat is kept on a shelf of the dresser, as it is said that it would crumble away if shut up in a box.

Some writers have stated that Father Moore's Well was originally the Blessed Well of St. Brigid of Rathbride, but this is a mistake, as St. Brigid's Well is still pointed out a considerable distance away in the fields to the east.

W. FITZGERALD.



In Memory Of The
Rathbride Memorial Committee
who commissioned this
Shrine in 1952
which was designed by the late
Patrick McCormack
Kildare.

Committee 1952 (All deceased)

Paddy McCormack,

John Boland,

Paddy Tiernan,

Jack Hicky,

Tommy Forde,

Jimmy Gilroy.

May They Rest In Peace.



FATHER MOORE'S WELL

ENCLOSED AND RENOVATED

BY THE PEOPLE OF RATHBRIDE

AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS

— 1952 —



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