

Hidden Treasure

Told By John Flannelly (Aged 55)

Carracastle, Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo

In the village of Ballymore, in the parish of Attymass there is a small lake from which a stream flows into a bigger one. About thirty yards from where it flows into the larger one there is supposed to be hidden treasure. The people say that if you can dream of this treasure three nights in succession, you will get it if you over-power the eel that guards it.

It is said that the treasure is a chest of gold, together with a chest of fine officer's clothes. There is an eel there, waiting for anyone who dreams of the treasure. When anyone who has dreamt goes there to get the treasure he will see the two chests, the eel and a fork. If he succeeds in sticking the fork into the eel, before she can reach the bigger lake which is called "Ballymore Lake", he will get the treasure, but if he does not, he will be an eel and will have to stay there and mind it.

It is said that a man named John Ferguson, nicknamed "Sean Mór", dreamt thrice of the treasure and that he told the parish priest. The priest said that he would go with him to the lake and take the power from the eel.

The man did not go but whenever he passed that way, he thought he could see the treasure.