

Academy does not appear in the Waterford Directory of 1821, but his school may have been well known. It was a day school and John O'Donovan had to journey daily on foot from his uncle Patrick's farm at the Mill, Ballyrowragh, a distance of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

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## Grinding Stones or Culm Brushers

**A** DOZEN or more to be seen distributed along the Laois-Carlow border of Kilkenny at Uskerty, Ballagh, Moyadd, Leighlin, The Ridge and Bilboa, etc. None is now in use, but all were extensively used 50 years ago. They were erected about 150 years ago when culm (proncolm) alias duff, i.e., coal dust or very fine coal gravel, was the main fuel used, an account of its cheapness, by small hill farmers.

As these grinding stones were not erected in valleys where better quality coal was mined, it would appear that their use commenced where culm was available near the surface and when this supply was exhausted the culm was brought to the stones from more distant sources. The stones were erected either communally, as at, Moyadd Cross where a stone was erected about 1850 for communal purposes, by Landlord Edge, or privately. Stones erected in public places by the roadside would be communal.

To work the stone a horse was yoked to the long iron shaft which was fixed at the centre of a circle so that horse and stone moved in a circle, the culm to be ground having been spread along the path of the stone. Marl or "Yellow Clay" was mixed with the culm in proportion 1; 10 parts culm.

The resultant mastic compound was "made" by hand into balls alias "Bumbs" for burning.

The culm was otherwise "worked" by being trampled by man or horse. Two jobs were combined when the culm was spread under the feet of a horse that powered a churning machine.

T. P. L.