

The Local Forges

There are two forges in this parish one in Kyle and the other in Killowen. As the late smith Mr Redmond is dead, his two sons James and Thomas are carrying on the work in the forge in Kyle. The smith in Killowen is very old he has retired from work, and the forge is closed as he had no one to carry on his work. His name is Mr Kinsella. Mr Kinsella's people have been blacksmiths for many generations.

Mr Redmond was about thirty years a smith in the parish. The forge is situated near the crossroad of Kyle, it is by the roadside and it is also near a stream. The walls of the forge are whitewashed, there are two windows in the front of the forge and one in the back, there is a slate roof on it and there is a sliding door on the front of it. The bellows are very large, it is in one corner of the forge and the pipe of it is under the fire grate, they were not made locally. The implements the blacksmith uses are, the hammer, the knife, the tongs, the rasp, the cutter, the anvil, the pinchers, the sledge, the nails and the fuller. The smith shoes horses and asses, he does not make ploughs or harrows, he binds wheels on the millstone in the open air. The smith is looked upon as being very strong. There is no local belief with regards to forge-water or the sparks that fly from the red iron. The blacksmith's forge is the centre for story-telling.

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