

AN ARTIST'S EYE

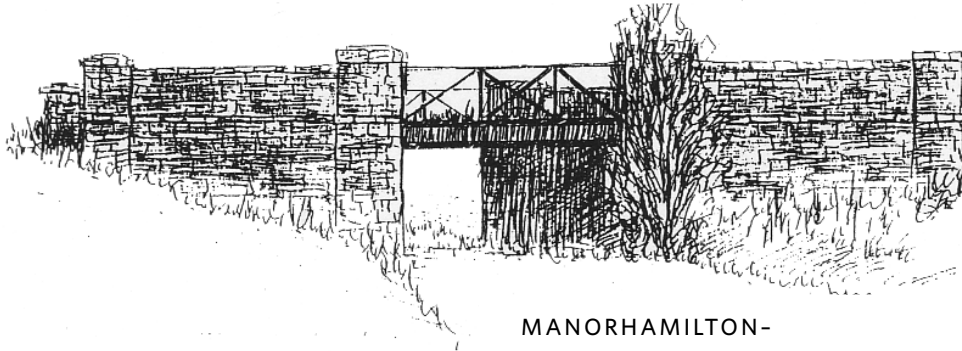
Sandra Vernon

A collection of bridges, disused, restored, neglected, each one having its own story, connecting people and countries



MULLINALECK BRIDGE—on the river Drowse

Near here, the Annals of the Four Masters (a history of Ireland up to 1616) were written. Next to the bridge is a well restored water mill that was used for milling grain and flax



MANORHAMILTON-

Part of the Sligo, Leitrim & Northern Counties Railway (1875-1957) Some of the station buildings can be seen in town nearby



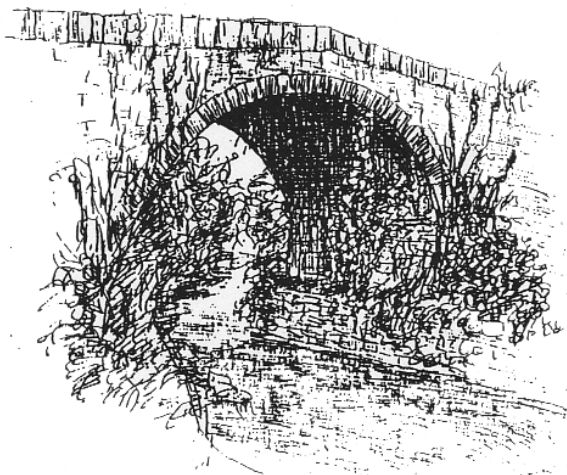
KILTYCLOGHER

An almost hidden little bridge in this town (built 1828) well known for being the birthplace of Sean MacDiarmada



DOWRA—

Connecting Leitrim and Cavan, this is the first bridge on the river Shannon. It was built in 1860 using stone blocks from the dismantled County Jail, as were some of the first houses



MOUNT ALLEN BRIDGE

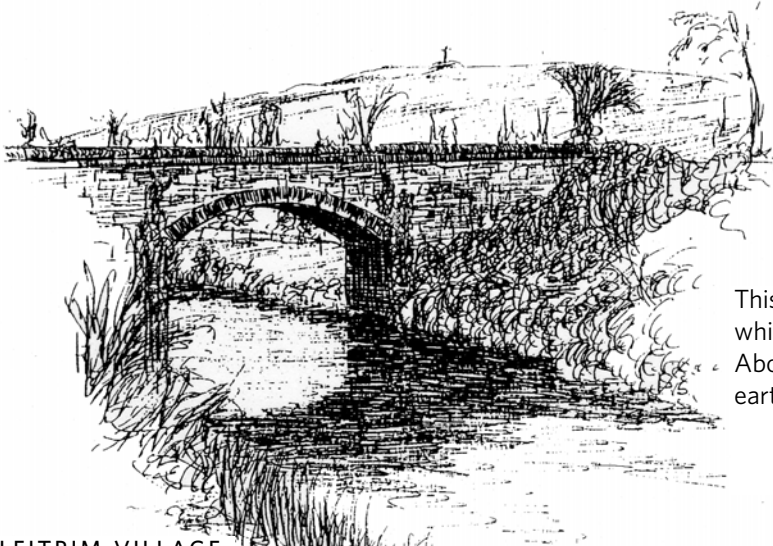
This bridge crossing the Arigna River and leading into Co Roscommon was repaved a good few years ago. The original was so steeply humped that if one approached at any speed at all, there was a risk of taking off!

BRIDGES OF LEITRIM



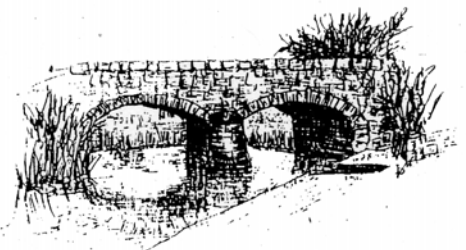
DRUMSHANBO—The Tram Bridge

Built as part of the Cavan & Leitrim Narrow Gauge Railway (1887-1959), the bend in the road that it created was something fearsome in the icy weather. Now nicely preserved when the road was widened



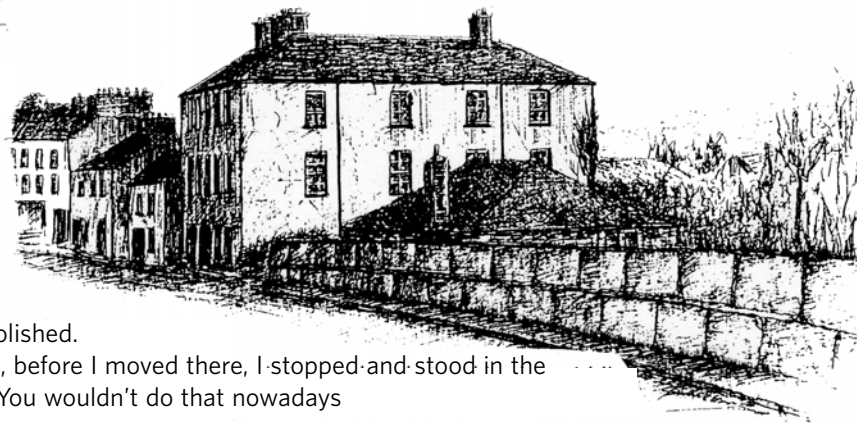
Nr LEITRIM VILLAGE

One of the many bridges on the Shannon Erne Waterway which was restored and re-opened in 1994. The Hill of Sheemore with its cairns and Marian Year Cross can be seen behind it



KESHCARRIGAN

This well built bridge crosses the river which links Keshcarrigan lake to Lough Scur. About 20 years ago this was covered in briars and earth and the good stonework could hardly be seen



CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

The old barracks built in 1911, now demolished. On my first trip through Carrick in 1969, before I moved there, I stopped and stood in the middle of the bridge to take the photo. You wouldn't do that nowadays

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON



This picture shows the building of the previous bridge in 1746, before the present one was built in 1848. It looks from the town across to the Roscommon side, the pile of stone on the left is probably the remains of the castle being re-used and the wood from the original bridge, a piece of which has been found and preserved. At that time, the roads followed the larger houses, so it would have led up to Hollywell as the section along the Shannon didn't exist then