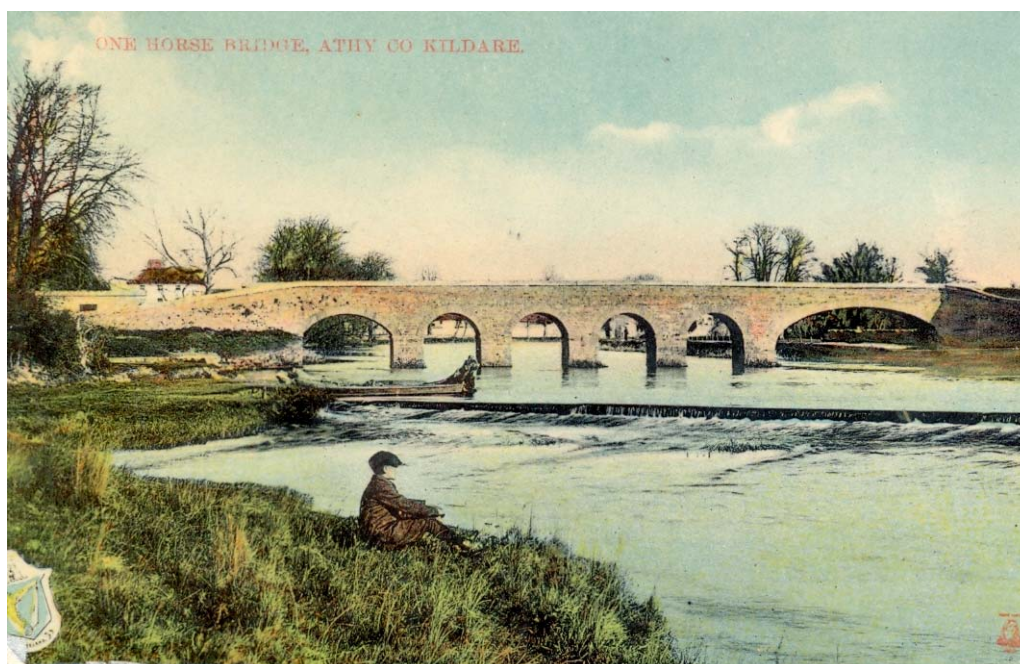


HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ATHY MUSEUM SOCIETY



THE ONE HORSE BRIDGE

The Grand Canal was extended to Athy, reaching the South Kildare town in 1791. That same year William, Duke of Leinster, officially opened Augustus Bridge that spans the Canal at Athy's Canal Harbour. It was named after one of his sons. A few hundred yards further up, the Grand Canal joins the River Barrow at what is the only example of a river and canal junction in Ireland. The horse-drawn Canal boats left the Grand Canal at Athy and joined the Barrow Navigation for the journey south to Carlow and beyond. The One Horse Bridge was built across the River Barrow, just below the 28th Lock to enable horses move from the Grand Canal towpath to the River Barrow bank and vice versa. The narrow bridge is just wide enough for one horse and his helper and is known locally as '*The Horse Bridge*'. During the Barrow Drainage Scheme commenced in 1926 one of the arches in the bridge was removed to prevent the build up of material which was causing flooding in the area.