HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

HERON'S FORD

Located on Heronsford Lane off Ballycorus Road, Rathmichael. Co. Dublin

If you are walking Heronsford Lane, in Rathmichael, you will cross the Loughlinstown River over a small bridge. On the west side of this bridge can be seen stepping stones. This is all that remains of the Heron's Ford.

The stepping stones would have helped walkers crossing the river where animals and coaches would have crossed the river using the ford. Looking at a present day map of south County Dublin you will see that Carrickmines Castle, Puck's Castle and Shankill Castle follow in a line. These points were once connected by a road that crossed this river by the ford and the stepping stones. This would have formed part of the defensive system of the Pale area as traffic passing these castles would be monitored for any threat of rebels coming from the Wicklow Mountains. The 1760 John Rocque's map shows this road to Pucks Castle. On the 1837 Ordnance Survey map the Stone Steps appear

Text and Picture: Myles Reid