

The Flax

My Greatgrandad lived on a mixed farm with his wife and five children during the years of 1916-1923

They had ducks, geese, hens, turkeys, cows, pigs sheep and work houses. They had to produce barley and oats to feed their livestock. Also my greatgrandad used to grow flax. The neighbours used to help him with the flax and he would do likewise when they needed help. It took a lot of preparation. You would have to pull the flax, then make it into sheaves, then pond it for 10 to 12 days, and then open the sheaves out and dry it in the sun. Then they took it by horse and cart to the flax mills. The flax was then made into linen. Greatgrandad did all of this to make extra money for his family.

One day when a man was putting in the sheaves into the pond, another man pushed him in for the laugh. Everyone laughed and he waddled off dripping as he went across the fields to his home. He took it in good humour and returned when he had a fresh change of clothes

The women of the household knitted socks and jumpers while the men went "scaorting" to neighbours houses.

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