PARK BRIDGE

Until Athlunkard Bridge was finished Park Bridge, built by the Vandeleur family, was private property. During that time there were clauses in the leases ensuring an abatement of £2 per acre for Corbally tenants if the bridge should fall into disrepair.

The approaches to the bridge, on both sides, had sharp angles. The only approach from the city side was by Sir Harry’s Mall, as Athlunkard Street was not constructed until 1824. The building of the approach road on the other side presented great difficulties, as the area was largely a swamp. Of the two right angles in the roadway near the bridge, one, the “Goose’s Corner”, was long renowned as a meeting place for the boys and girls of St. Mary’s parish. Dances were held there in the summertime — on other occasions the elders puffed away the hours planning and debating.

Early in the last century poultry markets were held at the corner, especially at Michaelmas, when those who could afford a goose would never miss the market. A Michaelmas goose was just as important at that time as the Christmas turkey is today. It is believed that on one occasion many of the geese on offer at the market were suffering from a strange disease which resulted in the slaughter and burial of the geese on the spot — hence, the “Goose’s Corner”.

—Kevin Hannan