

Inside the lock keeper's cottage



This is a view of the kitchen in the Lock Keeper's cottage. You can see the jamb wall, which was a traditional feature of Irish cottages. It controlled the draft for the fire and the window let light in.



This is the kitchen taken from beside the jamb wall. You can see the stairs in the background. The kitchen table would have been where most of the work was done. Given the size of the family, it would not have been possible to get everyone seated round the table so meals were taken in turn!



The bath and washboard. The children would have been bathed in front of the fire in the kitchen. On "wash day", the bath was used to clean clothes. The washboard was used by placing the clothes over the serrated glass and rubbing up and down with soap.

The water used for washing the clothes was taken out of the Lagan and heated over the fire.

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This is a carpet beater. In the days before vacuums, these were used to clean carpets and household fabrics. They were taken outside, hung on the washing line and beaten to knock the dust and dirt out of them. The cottage did not have carpets so this would have been used for rugs and bed quilts.

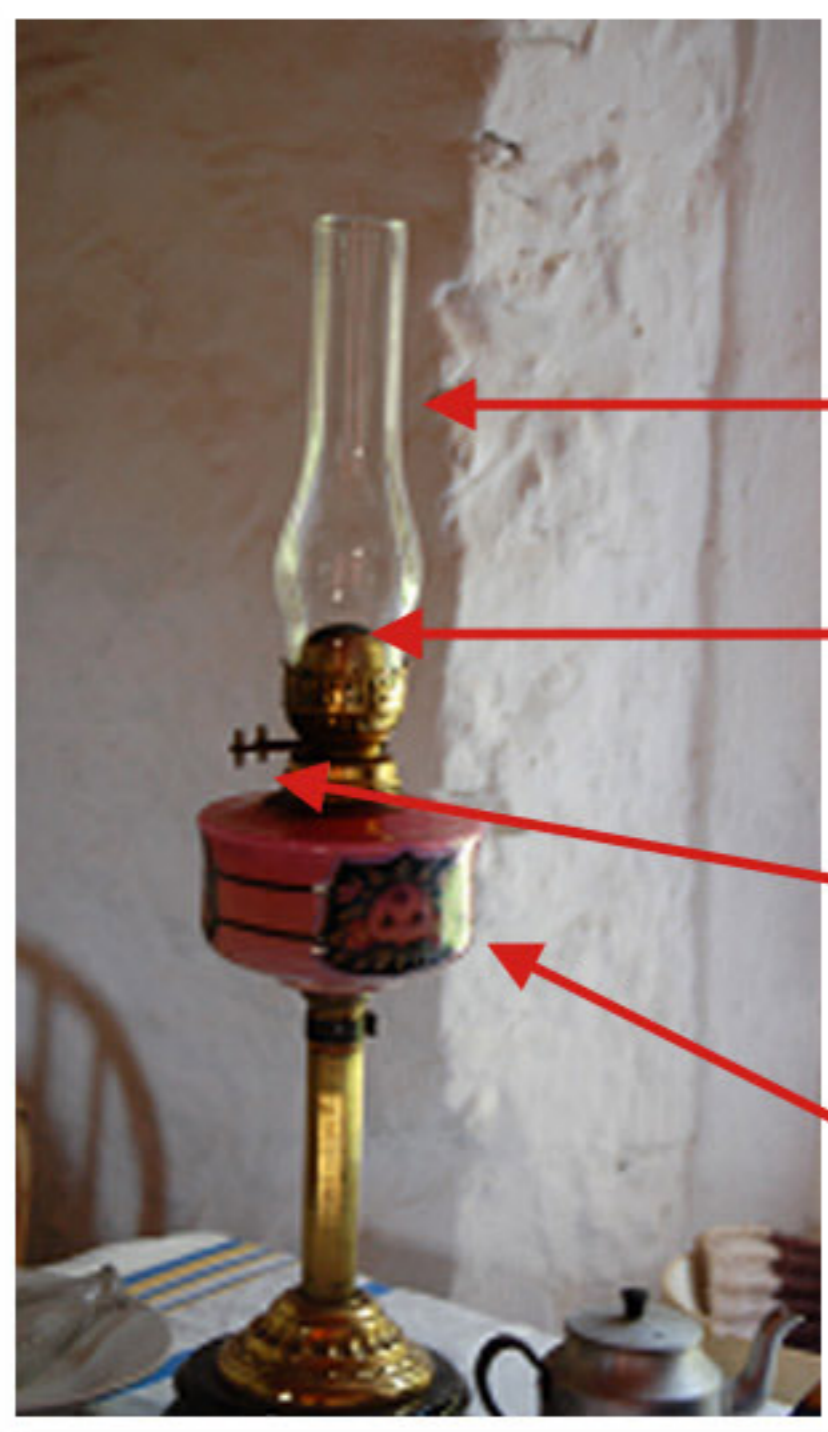


This is the old kettle. It would never have been off the fire. It is made out of cast iron and would have been hung on the hook over the fire to boil. The cottage did not have running water so it was brought from wells and taps in the area.



This is the baking bowl, a very important item in the kitchen.

It was used for making the mixtures for all the bread that would have been baked on a daily basis. Mrs Kilpatrick had fresh soda bread made every morning for all ten children when they got out of bed, before they all went to school.



Globe

Wick

Knobs for raising and lowering wick

Bowl

This is the original paraffin lamp, which would have been in the kitchen. The paraffin was put into the "bowl". The wicks are then raised and lit. There would be enough light from this one lamp to light the whole kitchen.

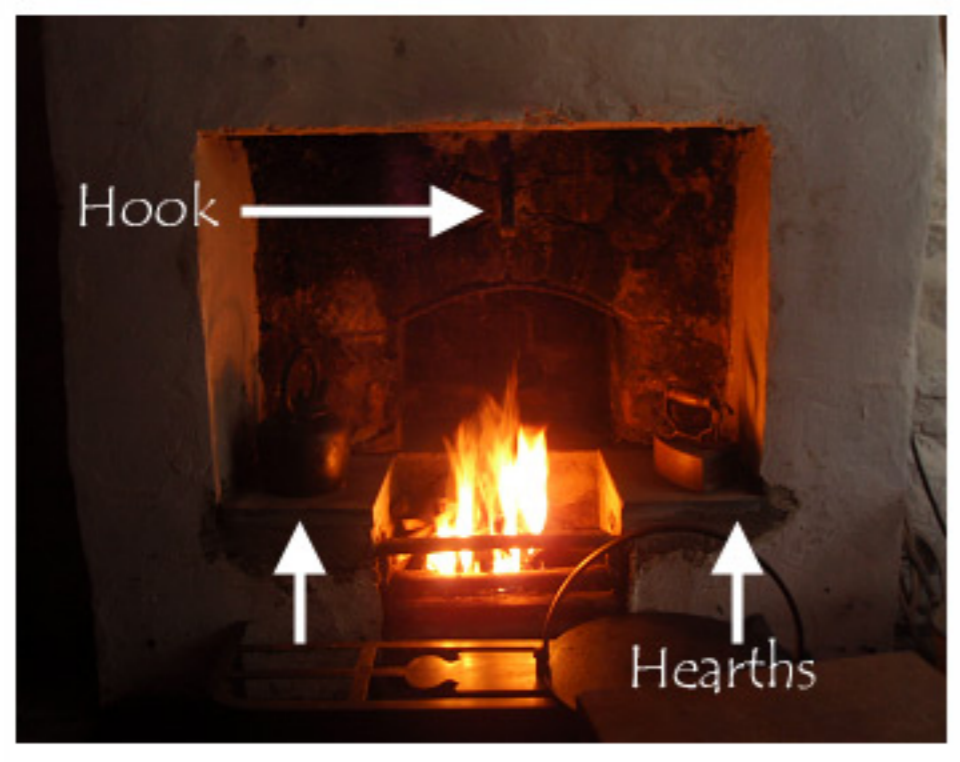
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This is the old iron. It is called a "slug iron" because you open up the door at the back and lift out the "slug" which is a triangular piece of cast iron. It was heated up in the fire and replaced in the iron so that it was kept warm. There would have been a couple of slugs so that they were swapped around to keep the iron warm. The ironing would have been done on the kitchen table.



This was a backed ladder, which was put against the back wall during the day and then lowered at night allowing access to the two upstairs bedrooms.



This is the fireplace. The fire would have been at the heart of family life because it was the main source of heat and the cooker. The pots would have been hung over the fire from a hook and kept warm on either

The bedrooms

This is the parent's bedroom. All ten Kilpatrick children were born in this room. It was also used as the "good" room so when important visitors came they were entertained in here. In addition, if the children were sick they were looked after in this room.



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This is what was known as a “po” from the French “pot de chambre” or chamber pot, it was a kind of toilet. The cottage never had an inside toilet so these would have been under the beds for use during the night to save you going outside. They would have been cleaned out in the morning. A po was also known as a “gazzunder” because it “gazzunder” the bed.



This is a washing set. There was never any running water in the cottage so the water for washing yourself had to be heated up over the fire and then placed in the jug. You then poured what you needed into the basin.



This is a stone hot water bottle. It was used in exactly the same way as a modern one – water was heated over the fire and then poured into the hole in the top, which was stopped with a cork. You would probably then have had to put a blanket or something over it as it would have been very hot.