

MYTHS, FOLKLORE &

The Iron Cross



Years ago, the Carmarthen Coraclers strongly believed that a witch, or a kind of devil, was hovering in every pond in the river Towy and the only way to protect themselves from the devil was to throw a piece of iron into the river before fishing.

Something like a nail would be enough to keep you safe for the night. It was a pagan tradition going back hundreds of years.

When the young coraclers came back from the Great War in 1918 they realised that there was no such thing as witches. They had seen far more scary things during the war and decided that the throwing of iron in the river was nonsense.

To keep their fathers happy, they carried on the tradition by placing a small iron cross in their paddle.

The cross was Christian, and the goddess of the water was pleased, as were the beliefs of the old coraclers