



The weather diaries of a hunting and fishing estate in Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland from 1898 to 1972

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A game diary from 1898-1917, fishing diary from 1899-1951 and daily work and weather diaries from 1933 -1972 have survived from the Fermoyle Lodge estate, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland. The diaries come from three generations of the Spellman family who retained their role as estate managers despite a number of changes in ownership over this time period. Using the information preserved in these volumes this paper will reconstruct the role of weather in the daily activities of this hunting and fishing estate. Severe weather generally only limited the numbers of days when hunting took place. In the case of fishing again severe weather could limit the number of days of fishing, however flood waters on the streams from the various small lakes on the estate improved fish runs during the spawning season which led to much improved fishing on the lakes. In addition different lakes were fished depending on the wind direction. The weather and especially severe weather played an important role in the general operation of the estate and the lives of the estate manager's family. This was especially true of severe weather, whether storms, flooding or cold in this relatively isolated location e.g. the cold spell of 1947 which is captured in the weather diaries.