

PATRICKSWELL GRAVEYARD

Michael Quinlan



Old yew, which graspeth at the stones,
That name the underlying dead;
Thy fibres net the dreamless head,
Thy roots are wrapped about the bones.

The parish of Knockainey and Patrickswell forms part of the western boundary of the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly, and stretches from Lough Gur in the north to Elton in the south. The line of hills south from the Lake contains Knockraher, Knockderk and Cnoc Aine. Between Knockraher and Knockderk stands Patrickswell Church, Lough Gur School, the Community Centre and at present an A.N.C.O. Mobile Training Unit where the parish records for this part of the diocese are being indexed under an A.N.C.O./ Lough Gur Development Association Community Survey, now in its third year.

At the foot of the northern face of Knockderk is the 'Well' (St. Patrick's Well) and the graveyard. This year a record was made of the headstone inscriptions in the graveyard. A further study should include the headstone art, as a tribute to the excellent and 'unsung' craftsmen of the past.

It has been possible to record inscriptions on sixty headstones, the oldest dating back to the mid- 18th. century. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Tom Dineen for his help. Tom assisted

in deciphering faded inscriptions and pointing out unmarked graves (not included in list). Were it not for Tom we would not have known that P.K. Hogan, T.D. in the 1920's is buried in the graveyard. Tom's memories help greatly in creating an image of customs in days gone by. It was customary, he said, to mark graves with trees and most of these were removed c. 1940 during a graveyard 'clean-up' project. He recalls the tradition that a 'Mass-house' stood in the graveyard. It is possible that part of the wall surrounding the tomb of Rev. Dr. John Dwyer P.P. was part of this structure. In Penal times, Mass was celebrated at three locations in the district - at Carraiganaifrin overlooking the Lake, on a megalithic tomb in Ballingirlough and in Patrickswell graveyard.

St. Patrick's Well gives its name to the townland. The custom of visiting the well and making 'rounds' is centuries old and is still continued on the feast of the patron saint. Over the well is built a small rectangular stone structure, above the entrance to which



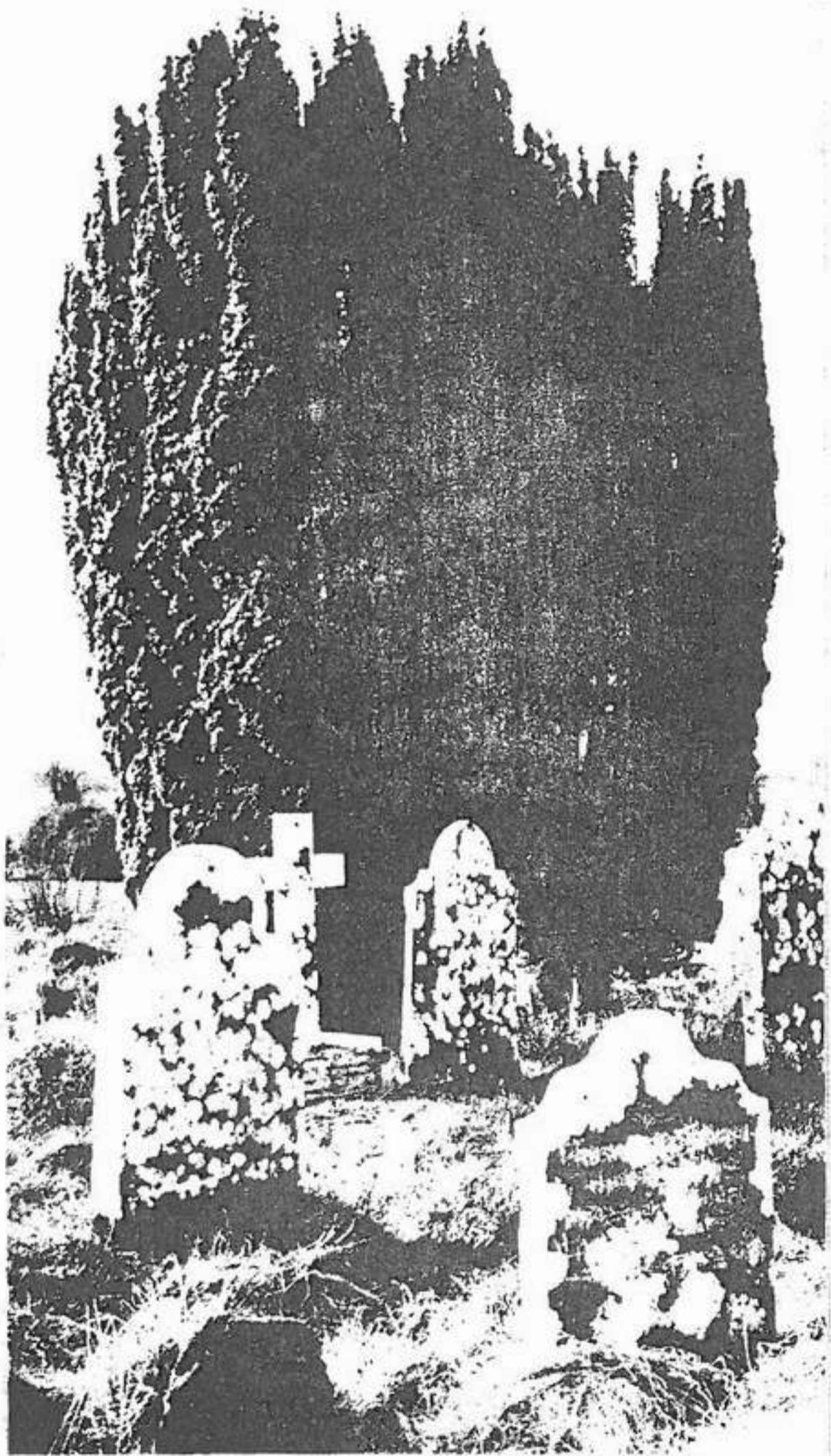
are the letters I.H.S. lightly incised upon a flat stone. Immediately to the N.W. there is a small pond about which a low wall has been built and to the N.E. is a second pond. To the S.E. is a natural mound on top of which a tree grew. The mound is called St. Patrick's Bed, because the saint is supposed to have slept upon it. When the pilgrim comes to make rounds, he must first collect 9 small stones from the roadway near the well and with those he keeps tally of his rounds. He must make 9 circuits of the well itself, stopping in front of it each time to say 5 Our Fathers, 5 Hail Marys and 5 Glories. He then collects 5 stones and going on to the mound makes 5 circuits saying the same prayers as before. He now returns to the well and takes a drink from each of the ponds. One visit is then complete and usually several visits are made throughout the day. When the pilgrim is finally leaving he fills a bottle with water, half from the well itself, the other half being made up from the two ponds. When he gets home he must take three sips of the water and the devotion is then complete.

The water is said to hold effective cures for all diseases and was given to people who were sick throughout the year. The well is carefully kept. Inside the erection over it is a little altar on which are several effigies of the saint and on which vases of fresh flowers are put from time to time.

Whereas the custom is still practiced today the format has changed. On St. Patrick's morning, Mass in Irish is said in the

church and Aifreann Ui Riada is sung. Beannaítear uisce on tobar roimh Aifreann. After Mass the congregation moves in procession to the well and a short visit is made. A change, but at least the tradition lives on. Until the early 19th. century a week-long 'pattern' (celebration of patron saint) was held. This was undoubtedly a combination of business, entertainment and religion and akin to the 'aonach' in some respects.

In the graveyard there are four tombs - Hammond, Carroll, Bouchier and O'Dwyer. Rev. Dr. John O'Dwyer was parish priest of Knockainey and Patrickswell 1814 - 1827. In the book of Baptismal records for the parish is the following entry: 'Here my mission begins in Knockainey, 4th. March 1814.' Fr. O'Dwyer was ordained in 1792, probably on the Continent. When Maynooth College was founded in 1795, Fr. O'Dwyer, though he had been ordained for three years, had to study Theology for three more years. He was one of the first group to enter Maynooth. After that he was appointed to the Emly side of the diocese, probably to the parish of Lattin, from 1798 until 1800. He was then appointed to the parish of Ballybricken where Fr. Ailbe O'Hanley was his parish priest. Fr. O'Hanley is credited with composing 'The Coolin' while curate in Knockainey. From 1814, as parish priest of Knockainey, Fr. O'Dwyer lived in Kilballyowen. There is a story which states that the Rev. Fr. and some of his parishioners captured a band of robbers in the act of thievery. He was held in high esteem by his parishioners as his tomb and inscription testify.



The seasons bring the flower again
And bring the firstlings to the flock;
And in the dust of thee, the clock,
Beats out the little lives of men.

Tennyson.

In 1832 Patrickswell Church was built by voluntary labour under the direction of Rev. James O'Brien P.P. It is a plain rectangular structure, standing on a height, inviting the attention of the passerby. In Mary Carbery's book 'The Farm by Lough Gur'-Sissy O'Brien describes it as follows: 'St. Patrick's Well was a poor plain little chapel.

There was an altar with a large crude statue of the Blessed Virgin on it and two vases of flowers. There was a gallery round the walls and on either side of the aisle little enclosed pews to hold two...-....There was no singing, no candles, no incense, no pictures and no stations of the cross.' This account was written in 1937, recalling the church as it was around 1870.

Around the turn of the century the mud floor was replaced with concrete. And every summer the church and school were white washed payment thirty shillings. By 1914 the interior had changed only in that the Stations had been added, but these were only simple unframed pictures. In the 20's many improvements were made - most important being the sanctuary, altar and rails which were donated in 1925. During this time also, the candleabra, crib figures and pews were added, the pews remaining the possession of the donor. In 1930 the Stations were donated. Stained glass windows (including two Harry Clarks), statues and Our Lady's altar also belong to this period. In 1942 the bellfry was erected, bell donated and outer walls plastered and finally in the early 50's electricity was installed.

In 1978, major reconstruction commenced under the direction of Fr. James Keogh P.P. Mass found a new venue in the parish, being the Clubhouse (old school - opened on 1st, Oct. 1854.) Archbishop Thomas Morris was chief concelebrant at the re-opening on 14th. December 1979. Henceforth the parish worships in this house of ancestral tradition.

Parish Priests of Knockainey and Patrickswell.

- 1704 - Rev. Con Conlon.
- 1752 - Rev. Timothy Coffey.
- 1792 - Rev. Timothy Morrissey.
- 1793 - Rev. John Hickey.
- 1808 - Rev. Fr. Cleary.
- 1810 - Rev. Thomas Luby.
- 1812 - Rev. Fr. Nugent.
- 1813 - Rev. John Hickey.
- 1814 - Rev. John O'Dwyer.
- 1827 - Rev. James O'Brien.
- 1841 - Rev. John Ryan.
- 1850 - Rev. Edmond O'Kane.
- 1870 - Rev. Michael Ryan.
- 1893 - Rev. John Burke.
- 1899 - Rev. Michael Hourigan.
- 1921 - Rev. Pat Connery.
- 1926 - Canon Anthony Humphries.
- 1944 - Canon James Foley.
- 1960 - Rev. John Hayes.
- 1976 - Rev. James Keogh.
- 1985 - Rev. Michael Meagher.

In Loving memory of
Mrs Mary O'Halloran
Lough Gur
Died 29/02/1924
Age 82 years.

In loving memory of
David O'Donovan
died Nov 12th 1954
Thomas O'Donovan
died 15th Oct 1978

In loving memory of James Casey, Knockderk
died Feb. 21st 1961
Catherine Casey died March 9 1941
Myles Casey died April 1926
Bridget Casey died 1923

Erected by John Dooly of
Baggotstown in memory of his
Beloved wife Mary Dooly alias Halpin
who departed this life June 9th 1834
age 56 years.

Erected by Thomas Mangane
in memory of his son William
Mangane who departed this life Nov
age 22 yrs.

Here lies the body of Daniel O'Donnell
who departed this life
1st day of April 1781
aged 71 yrs.

May The Lord have mercy on his Soul.

In loving memory of John Casey,
Ballynagallach Holycross,
Died 19 Nov, 1973 Aged 86 yrs.

Erected by Thomas Dooly in memory of
his father Patrick Dooly Francis of
Rusheen who died March 5th 1830 aged
98 yrs.

Erected by the Hogan family of Patrickswell
and Herbertstown in memory of their dearly
beloved parents, sisters & brothers
James Hogan died Feb. 1st 1953.

In loving memory of Bridget Conolly
who died the 19th Jan 1901 aged 72 yrs
her son John Conolly
died 8th April 1901 aged 38 yrs
and her husband
John Connolly
who died 25th May 1902
aged 78 yrs.

In loving memory
of our dear parents
John O'Brien, Baggotstown
Bruff, died 25/05/1964
aged 61 years
his wife Agnes
28/08/1971 aged 72 yrs.

Erected by Catherine Donohoe & Patk. Hogan
in memory of her most beloved father
James Donohoe who departed this life
Sept. 7th 1829 aged 60 yrs.

In loving memory of
Patrick Murnane
died 5th Feb 1920
His wife Margaret
died 17th May 1942
Daniel Murnane
died 22nd Dec 1965
His wife Mary
died 6th Feb 1979.

Timothy Donohoe
1776

Erected by
Dan Mangane, Camas
in memory of his
beloved daughter Ellen Mangane
who departed life Dec 9th 1846
aged 32 years
Also his daughter Mary
who departed life Dec 8th 1850
aged 25 yrs.

Loving memory of
Patrick Gennery
died 31st Oct 1966

O'Grady, Bruff
(not legible)

In loving memory of
Catherine Toomey
(rest illegible)

In loving memory of
Michael O'Connell,
Lough Gur
died Feb. 28th 1962
Josephine O'Connell
died July 4th 1975.

Bridget Carroll
died 1782
aged 41 years.

Erected by
Mrs Catherine O'Brien
Baggotstown
in memory of her husband
Patk O'Brien
died 30/5/ 1982
Aged 76 years.



Erected by Mrs. Mary Berkery Kilcullane
in memory of her beloved Father,
Bartholmew Slattery

died April the 6th 1885
aged 73 yrs

Her son Bartholmew Berkery
died November 27th 1891
aged 12 months.

Her mother Bridget Slattery
(Alias O Donnell)
died March the 10th 1892

Her son Tim Berkery
died March 10th 1894
aged 6.

Peter Berkery died August 6th 1893
aged 12 months.

John Berkery died March 4th 1902
aged 2½ years.

Also her daughter Mrs. Bridget Hickey,
Kilcullane
who died 1st Nov. 1960.

Her husband Martin died 19th April 1979.



Patrickswell Churchyard.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in Thee
To the glory of God and in honour
of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Pray for the Soul of
TIMOTHY HARTIGAN, Patrickswell
who died 25th April 1928

MRS HARTIGAN

Died 23rd April 1945

EDWARD HARTIGAN

Died 18th Jan. 1950 Aged 80 yrs.

ALICE HARTIGAN

Died 3rd Sept. 1954 Aged 90 yrs
Requiescat In Pace

In loving memory of
Catherine Dineen
who died 17th December 1980
aged 75 years
Erected by her daughter Margaret
Son in law Michael and family.

Erected by Pat Casey of Rusheen in
memory of his father John Casey, who
departed this life March 10th. 1839
aged 52 years.

Erected by Michael Garen in memory of
his father Denis, departed life Dec. 4th
aged 48 years.
Also his sister Mary.

Erected by John Carroll of Rusheen
in memory of his Father
and Mother and of his
Sisters.

Here lieth the mortal part of the
Reverend Doctor John O Dwyer
Catholic Pastor of the Parish of
Knockainey

In life he was beloved and respected
and in death most sincerely lamented
He departed this life April 3rd 1827
aged 66 yrs.

This tomb was erected by his parishoners
as a mark of their esteem for him.

The burial place of the Caulfields
of Fedamore

Mrs Harrington
died June 13th 1876 aged 30 years

Mrs Caulfield
died March 6th 1879 aged 63 years

Mrs Toomey
died March 11th 1888 aged 49 years

James Caulfield
died November 13th 1897 aged 80 years

Mrs Keogh
died March 26th 1898 aged 45 years.

Erected by revds. John and Daniel
Horan to the memory of their beloved
father Edmund Horan of Kilcullane who
died Feb. 12th. 1899. Aged 72 years.
And Margaret Horan (nee Bourke), his
wife died Feb. 21st 1858, aged 34 years.
May they rest in peace.

Edmund Horan died 20th. May 1811
Aged 60 years.

Also their sisters Mary Horan, died
Oct. 18th. 1871

Aged 19 years
and Eileen Horan
died March 29th. 1888.

Aged 43 years
Also Hanna Mac Namara
nee Horan, died Feb 26th. 1813.
Aged 57 years.

Here lieth the body of
Florence O'Solovan
who died Sept 22nd 1759
aged 57 years
Also Martin his son
died Jan 1st 1766
aged 24
Also John Solovan
died 6/4/1758
aged 20 years.

Thomas Hurley Herbertstown
in loving memory of his wife
Hanora Hurley
died 11th June 1917
aged 18 years
and family
Elizabeth Hurley
died 9th Aug 1937
Mary Hurley
died 7th June 1938

Erected by Edmond Hogan in memory of
his father Daniel Hogan
who departed life Jan 12th 1824
aged 66 yrs.

This stone is erected by Michael Dineen
in memory of their mother,
Mary Dineen alias Burke of Knockderk
Deceased February 21st 1837 Aged 79 yrs
May the Lord have mercy on her soul.
Amen.

To the memory of
DENIS
Fourth son of
MICHAEL O'BRIEN
Lough Gur.
By his affectionate daughter
K.O.B. McGrath.

Erected by their children to the memory
of John Carroll, Bruff Mills
who died 17th of March 1878
aged 75 years
His wife Jane Carroll alias Connolly
died 31st August 1878
aged 64 years.

IHS
in
loving memory
of
JOHN O'BRIEN
of Lough Gur
who died Feb. 21 1892
Aged 79 yrs
Merciful Jesus
Have mercy on his Soul
Holy Mary Pray for Him.

Erected by James Toomey in memory of
his father James Toomey
who died 14th June 1893
aged 92 years
And of his son Dan
who died 25th Feb 1891
aged 8 years.

In all the works remember thy last and
and thou shalt never sin
Ecl. 7c 40 V.
Here are interred the remains of Johanna
The beloved wife of MICHAEL O'BRIEN
Lough Gur
and also his daughter ELIZABETH who both
departed this life the year 1841
May the Lord have mercy on them.

To the memory of
Edmond Carroll
by his beloved wife
Johanna Carroll Bruff.

Here lieth the body of
Eleanor Danaher ?
who departed this life
April 21st 1795
aged 60 years.

Erected by Thos Tracy
in memory of his son
James who departed life
January 4th 1818
aged 24 years.

Erected by David and Michael Hourigan
in memory of their beloved
father David Hourigan
of Kilcullane
who depd life June 14th 1838
aged 80 years
Also their brother James Hourigan
depd Dec 21st 1836
aged 30 years.

In memory of Margaret Fitzgerald
who died 7th March 1926
aged 73 years
James Fitzgerald died 11th March 1929
aged 82 years
John Fitzgerald died 21st March 1960
aged 66 years.

In loving memory of Michael Dooley
died 17th June 1937
His brother Richard
drowned TITANIC April 1912
Their sister Mary
died 14th Nov 1943.
Their brother John died 28th Feb 1957
His wife Mary Bridget
died 12th March 1926
Their daughter Cissie
died 14th Sept 1942
Their son Edward
died 22nd Jan 1979

Erected by Sarah Carroll alias O'Regan
in loving memory of her beloved
husband John Carroll of Ballydaheen
Bruff
who died May 27th 1864 aged 81 yrs.

In loving memory of
Hanora O'Brien
died August 1939
Her daughter Mary
died January 1940
Her daughter Ellen
died January 1965.

Erected by Catherine Hammond in memory
of her husband Patrick Hammond
who died on the 16th Feb 1858
aged 72 years
Also his son John who died
20th April 1879
aged 23 years.
Oh Lord have mercy on their souls Amen.

In loving memory of Mary Keane (Carroll)
died 21st August 1933
aged 75 years
John Keane died 29th July 1936
aged 86 years
Michael Keane died 1st Jan 1946
aged 59 years
Martin Goley died 16th June 1966
aged 66 years.

This stone was erected by John Wallis
in memory of his father
William Wallis
who departed this life April 22nd 1781
aged 59 years
Requiescat in pace Amen.

This vault is erected by Joseph Bouchier
in memory of his son
? Bouchier
who departed this life February 1801
aged 15 years
May the Lord have mercy on his soul Amen.

Erected by Timothy Carroll in memory
of his mother Margaret Herbert who died
March 6th 1868
aged 60 yrs.

In loving memory of Patrick O'Rourke
Knockderk
Died 26th July 1963 aged 83 years
His wife Mary
Died 24th August 1965 aged 73 years.

This stone was erected by John Casey
in memory of his father
William Casey
who died June the 1st 1768
aged 68 years
Also his wife Mary Harty
who died August the 8th 1788
aged 70 years
The Lord have mercy on their souls.

Erected by Thomas Carroll of Baggotstown
in memory of his daughter
Hanora Carroll
departed life July 27 1823
aged 25 years.

Erected by James Quilty of Bruff
in memory of his mother
Mary Quilty (Crimmins)
who died 1860 aged 63 years.

Erected by Patrick Carroll in memory of
his beloved father John Carroll of
Ballinvrana
who departed life Oct 2nd 1837
Aged 78 years.

This tomb was erected by Thomas Hammond
in memory of his son
Simon Hammond
who departed this life in 1804

Erected by Darby Hogan in memory of
his father who died May 6th 1750

Owen Carroll of Ballinvrana
and formerly of Kilballyowen
deceased April 3rd 1888
aged about 58 years
May the Lord have mercy on his soul.

Erected by Patrick Toomey in memory of
his father Michael Toomey Rathanny
who dept life Sept 20th 1829
aged 68 yrs.

Here lieth the body of
Elenor Hayesin Bruff
who departed this life
May 31st 1807
aged 106 years.

Erected in beloved memory of
Edmund J. Hogan Rathjordan
who died 26th Feb 1883
Aged 48 yrs.
Mrs Kate Hogan died 1st March 1888
Aged 48 yrs.