

Threecastles Cemetery

Townland: Threecastles
 Parish: Freshford
 Ownership: KK Co. Co.
 Rothe House No: TG08a
 BG No: 335
 RMP No: 14-25-03
 Geolocation: E 645709, N 662594 (ITM)
 52.712528, -7.323516 (WGS 84)
 Surveyed by: Mrs Margaret M. Phelan and Mrs Madge Buggy
 Survey Date: August 1968

Foreword:

Inscribed tablet on parapet of bridge over River Nore close to Cemetery reads –
 This Bridge built by Presentment and Subscription A.D. 1790
 John Butler, James Bryan, Richard Ball, Esquires
 Principal Subscribers and Overseers

The old parish church of Odagh, now a ruin, is in the townland of Threecastles and belongs to the parish of Freshford. The adjoining cemetery in Treecastles, overlooking the River Nore, contains a large number of mounds indicating an ancient burial place. All inscribed tombstones are facing east, some being rather difficult to read – falling forward. There are various ancient stones to be seen without any inscription. A small “cadaver” (oblong stone with skeleton inscribed) with left top corner broken off lies on ground at east corner of ruins. The bottom part of a floriated cross – two separate pieces, is to be seen in the centre of cemetery. Many tombstones are covered over with earth and grass, others lie stacked one on top of the other - these are unread. A note on Three Castles Cemetery by Madge Buggy is given in *Old Kilkenny Review* 1969, No. 21.

Inscriptions:

Name	Tomb No.	Inscription
Ball (1)	1	(Broken slate tablet lying on ground inside ruins of church. Parts missing.) Hannah beloved wife of the late Shelton Ball of Threecastles ---- this life Feb. ----- 94 years
Ball (2)	2	(Altar tomb also inside ruins) Left side panel: “Sacred to the memory of Launcelot Shelton Ball, Esq. of Threecastles died 25 th Sept 1855 aged 59 years.” Panel on right side reads – “This monument over their children was

		erected by his widow.” Note: No inscription to be seen on top.
Birch (1)	3	Note: All Birch tombstones are close to one another except Birch No 8 which is broken in pieces. (Near left hand ditch) Erected by Mr. Martin Birch of the City of Kilkenny in memory of his daughter, Miss Alicia Birch who died August 31 st 1822 aged 14 years, within 5 yards of his relatives and two children who died young, also the above Martin Birch died July 24 th 1825 aged 50 years. Rev. M. Birch died 1845. N. Birch died 1840. Catherine Birch alias Kelly died 1845. Miss Catherine Birch died 1874.
Birch (2)	4	(Beside above) In memory of Patrick Birch of Kilkenny who died 1 st Jan 1884 and his son Martin Birch. Also in memory of his father and mother Martin and Mary Birch and their son and daughter, the Rev. Ml. Birch and Catherine Birch.
Birch (3)	5	(Large Celtic Cross now broken and lying on ground) In memory of Richard Birch, Esq. of Parliament Street, Kilkenny who died 31 st December 1875 aged 37 years. This monument is erected by his sorrowing widow, Catherine Birch. Tomb maker - Hoban, Kilkenny Note: Walsh Bros. (Patrick, Donal & Joseph), Corn Stores Grocer & Spirit Dealers, Irishtown, was known as “Catty Birch’s Corner”. Shearman’s Directory 1839 states – Catherine Birch, Publican, Irishtown. Richard and Catherine Birch were grandparents of Harte family, Parliament Street, Kilkenny.
Birch (4)	6	(Altar tomb, one of three enclosed by cement surround.) Erected by Mr. Patrick Birch of Keatingstown in memory of his son, John Birch whose filial qualities while living claimed this tribute of his affection. He departed this life October 3 rd 1845 aged 18 years, also his daughter, Mary who departed this life June 22 nd 1833 aged 4 years, also the above Patrick Birch who died May 5 th 1861 aged 80 years, also his wife Mrs Bridget Birch alias Grace who departed this life Dec 1 st 1861 aged 71 years. In memory also of Michael Birch, Keatingstown, died August 8 th 1897 aged 75, his wife Kate June 25 th 1906 and their children, Michael Feb 9 th 1868 aged 16, Bridget March 3 rd 1873 aged 23, Mary Kate O’Keeffe (Birch) 1879 aged 24, Agnes July 4 th 1892 aged 27, Patrick August 10 th 1900 aged 50. <i>Requiescat in Pace Amen.</i>
Birch (5)	7	(Centre altar tomb) As a filial act of gratitude this tombstone was erected by Mr Patrick Birch of Keatingstown in memory of his father, Mr Michael Birch of Killaree who died Dec 6 th 1829 in the 81 st year of his age, also his mother Catherine Birch alias Connery who died April 16 th 1818 aged 86.
Birch (6)	8	(Third altar tomb, broken and difficult to read.) ----- Birch -----
Birch (7)	9	God be merciful to the soul of Michael Birch, Killaree who died Dec. 15 th

		1794 aged 75, also his wife Alice Birch alias Phelan died Feb 12 th 1788 aged 70.
Birch (8)	10	(This tombstone is broken in pieces and lies inside the iron gate at entrance to graveyard at top of steps.) It reads as follows: Erected by Ed. ---- of the City of ---- in memory of his wife Judith Dalton alias Birch who departed this life April 1816 aged 25 years, also their son John who died young.
Brophy	11	(First tombstone on entering cemetery – top of steps) Erected by Bridget Cullen in loving memory of her father, John Brophy, St Canices’s Well died Sept 4 th 1915 aged 71 years and her husband, George C. Cullen aged 44, also their son, George W. Cullen aged 8 years died October 28 th 1918. Tomb maker - Gargan, Kilkenny Note: George Cullen was a member of the R.I.C. and was in charge of the jail. He was a non-Catholic and died in 1918. The above Mrs Bridget Cullen died July 24 th 1968 on her 90 th birthday and is interred here. R.I.P.
Brown	12	(Small tombstone in far corner) In loving memory of Richard Brown died Jan 12 th 1917. Ann died Feb 11 th 1921.
Brennan (1)	13	Sacred to the memory of Mrs Judith Brennan, Sart who died March 22 nd 1859 aged 35. This stone was erected by her affectionate husband, John Brennan.
Brennan (2)	14	Erected by Thomas Brennan, Clashacrow in memory of his father, Edmond who died Jan 20 th 1852 aged 60, also his uncle, Patrick Brennan died Feb 7 th 1818 aged 65, also his beloved mother Margaret Brennan alias Kelly died Sept 1857 aged 67. Also Thomas Brenan died 21 st July 1889 aged 70, his wife Catherine alias Walsh died Jan 1891 aged 58 and son Patrick died 1929 aged 64. Also Mrs Teresa Brenan nee Mansfield died Nov 1949 aged 71 (wife of above Patrick), also their daughter, Catherine, The Square, Freshford died 10 th Sept 1961 aged 56 years.
Burke (1)	15	Erected by John Burke in memory of his father, John Burke of Castleinch who died Sept 29 th 1815 aged 54 years also his mother Bridget Burke alias Slattery died Dec 19 th 1829 aged 66 years, also his brother Edmond Burke died Feb 14 th 1829 aged 15 years.
Burke (2)	16	(Beside above) Erected by Mary Burke alias Purcell in memory of her husband Edmond Purcell, Threecastles, aged 55 years died 1918.
Burke (3)	17	(Beside above) Erected by Thomas Burke of Castle Inch in memory of his wife Mary alias Walsh died Sept 10 th 1826 aged 30 years, also his daughter Eleanor who died young.
Butler (1)	18	Erected by John Butler of Cooleshall in memory of his father Thomas Butler who died 1878 aged 69, also his mother Judith Butler alias Healy

		died 1864 aged 40. His sister Margaret died Jan 1889 aged 48, also his uncle, Patrick Butler died April 1883 aged 70. John Butler died 1911 aged 53 and his son John died Feb 1930 aged 30. R.I.P. His brother James died Aug 1946 aged 60.
Butler (2)	19	God be merciful to the soul of John Butler who died 18 th July 1789 aged 37. Erected by his wife Hanora alias Keagan. Mrs Kate Butler nee Dooley died 1936 aged 64.
Clarke	20	(Small upright Celtic Cross inside ruin – beside Ball.) Sacred to the memory of Robert Vaughan Clarke, Threecastles, died March 21 st 1891 aged 56. Note: Clarks lived where Hennessy's now reside (1968) Balls and Butlers also lived here.
Cuggy	21	Erected by Mary Cuggy in memory of her father, Jeremiah Cuggy, Threecastles who died 30 th Nov 1921 aged 79 years, also her mother Mary Cuggy alias Gorman died 17 th April 1903, also the Gorman family. The above Mary Cuggy died 1 st May 1956 aged 80 years. Tomb maker - Mullan & Sons, Threecastles
Clear (1)	22	Erected by Patrick Clear of Clashacrow in memory of his wife Judith alias Dooley who died 1867 aged 40, also his daughter Joanna died 1877 aged 18. Mary died Feb 1887 and two children died young. Mrs Ellen Clear alias Dooley died 1928, also Minnie her daughter died 1922 aged 22years.
Clear (2)	23	God be merciful to the soul of John Clear, 1765.
Dermody	24	(Facing east ditch, near Birch) Erected by the Widow Dermody of Klintown in memory of her husband John Dermody who died 25 th Mar, 184- aged 55 years and one child died young. Note: Klintown – probably Clinstown near Swiftsheath, Jenkinstown. Cooleraheen Parish according to E. O'Kelly's "Cois Feoire".
Davis	25	In memory of James Davis who died 1856 and his wife Mary died 1887 and some children and grandchildren.
Delaney (1)	26	Erected by Margaret Delaney alias Clear in memory of her husband Michael of Carrigeen who died Dec 1 st 1822 aged 43. Note: Carrigeen – Parish of Odagh. (See Clear (1) of Clashacrow)
Delaney (2)	27	Erected by Patrick Delaney of Leugh in memory of his father John Delaney who died Nov 1 st 1803 aged 64 also daughter Margaret Mary Delaney alias Curren died Dec 1799 aged 26 years. Note: Leugh, Threecastles – Parish of Odagh
Doolin	28	God be merciful to the soul of Patrick Doolin who died May 17--, also his brother William died 1763 aged 63 and Laurence, son of above Patrick.
Egan	29	Erected by Mrs A. Egan of Margaretsfield in memory of her husband Michael Egan who died Sept 1918 aged 56. Daughter, Mary Ann Egan died 1920 aged 28, and daughter Hanny died young also a son Patrick

		Note: Margaretsfield – St John’s Parish
Fitzgerald	30	Michael Fitzgerald died 1728 aged 21 and Catherine Fitzgerald.
Hennesy (1)	31	(Lying flat under tree near south wall) God be merciful to the soul of Bridget Hennesy, daughter of John Hennesy of Killaree, who died June 24 th 1771 aged 7 years, also two brothers James and Oliver. Note: Killaree – Odagh Parish
Henesy (2)	32	Erected by Anastasia Henesy in memory of her son, Edmond who died 27 th March 1807 aged 35, also his brother Patrick who died in America 4 th April 1807 aged 30.
Henesy (3)	33	Here lies the body of Mr Oliver Henesy of Dama who died 10 th July 1804 aged 64. Note: Dama – Parish of Ballycallan
Henesy (4)	34	God be merciful to the soul of Edmond Henesy of Killaree who died 18 th Feb 1799 aged 108 years, also his son Timothy died May 26 th 1801 aged 55 years with four children. Erected by his son, Patrick of Dama. His mother died 1814 also two children and two grand children.
Henesy (5)	35	This stone was erected by Edmond Henesy in memory of his three sons – William died July 1748 aged 17 years. Kyran died ----- (rest buried in ground)
Holmes	36	Here lie Mrs Martha Holmes alias Wilson who died 1772 aged 64, also daughter Anne and grand children (3)
Horoan (1)	37	Erected by Patrick Horohan, High Street, City of Kilkenny in memory of his son, Denis who died Nov 1827 aged 28 and three children died young.
Horogan (2)	38	God be merciful to the soul of Bridget W. Horohan, wife to Denis Horohan who died 1766. Bridget Horohan was alias Ratchford.
Hogan	39	Erected by Mrs Mary Hogan of Oldtown in memory of her beloved husband Thomas Hogan who died 1854 aged 67 years. Note: Oldtown – Tullaroan Parish
Jordain	40	Erected by Patrick Jordain in memory of his father, James Jordain who died Dec 1796 aged 39 years.
Kelly (1)	41	(Note: All Kelly tombstones facing east boundary) I.H.S. This stone erected by Mr Michael Kelly in May 1764 in memory of his father, Michael Kelly and mother, Winifred Kelly alias Dowling and Edward Kelly their son who all lie here interred.
Kelly (2)	42	Erected to the memory of Margaret Kelly alias Murphy of Springhill who died 12 th May 1833 aged 39, also her husband William Kelly who died 18 th June 1864 aged 66. Note: Springhill – Odagh Parish.

Kelly (3)	43	Erected by David Kelly of Springhill in memory of his loved wife Anstice Kelly alias Britt who died 8 th June 1877 aged 64, also his only son, John who died 29 th May 1877 aged 28, also daughter Eleanor died Jan 1862 aged 15, also his father and mother are interred here. The above David Kelly died 14 th Oct 1878 aged 65 years. Stonemason - P. Hoban, Kilkenny
Kelly (4)	44	(Small stone lying flat) Erected by William Kelly of Clashacrow in memory of his wife Eliza Kelly alias Maher who died Sept 20 th 1851.
Kelly (5)	45	Erected by Michael Kelly in memory of his father, John Kelly of Clashacrow who died Aug 27 th 1831 aged 79, also his wife Eleanor Kelly alias Dalton died Oct 1829 and a daughter
Lanigan (1)	46	Here lye the body of Honor Lanigan alias Lawliss who died 29 th Jan 1766 aged 36, also the body of her husband Richard Lanigan died 14 th Sept 1783 aged 63.
Lanigan (2)	47	(Old stone, incised cross. No date) Michael Lanigan, Durrow Note: Durrow – Laoighis – Ossory
Lanigan (3)	48	In loving memory of James Lanigan of Ballycallan who died April 29 th 1918 and his wife Margaret died Sept 1911 aged 74.
Laffin	49	Erected by James Laffin, Ballyconra in memory of his father William died Oct 18--- aged 66. Note: Ballyconra – Parish of Ballyragget
Leathly	50	(Altar tomb at bottom of right hand corner) Here lie the remains of Edward Forde Leathly, Esq. who died at Foulksrath Castle 30 th March 1848 (a prayer follows). Note: Foulksrath – Parish of Coolcraheen.
Mension or Minchin	51	Here lieth near the remains of her grandfather, Robert Mension, the body of Margaret Loughnan who died July 2 nd 1787 aged 16 years.
Morrissey	52	Erected by Edmond Morrissey -- (rest underground)
Mulhall	53	(Nearest end wall, south) Erected by Catherine Mulhall alias Knaresboro in memory of her husband John Mulhall of Kilmademoge who died Feb 16 th 1808 aged 64. Note: Kilmademoge – Ballyfoyle.
Murphy	54	Erected by Mrs Margaret Murphy alias Cantwell in memory of her husband, John Murphy died 1815 aged 44
McCabe (1)	55	(Small tombstone near Cullen-Brophy) Erected by Anastasia McCabe in memory of her husband John McCabe, Kingsland who died 12 th June 1843. Tomb maker - Burnell, Thurles

		Note: Kingsland – St Canice’s Parish
McCabe (2)	56	Here lieth the body of Terence Mc Cabe who died 20 th Aug 1771 aged 70, also his wife Judith alias Shortall who died Mar 1778 aged 56, also a grandchild and one son, Loughlin. R.I.P.
Ryan (1)	57	(Two altar tombs almost covered by trees and ivy. West side of castle ruins) Here lie deposited the remains of Edward Ryan, Springhill, who died 14 th Sept 1807 aged 49 years. His eldest son, Henry Ryan of Kilfera erected this monument as a sincere tribute of filial respect and affection to the memory of his parents. Note: Springhill – Odagh Parish. Kilfera – Sheastown.
Ryan (2)	58	(Beside above) In loving memory of Henry Ryan, Esq. of Kilfera who died Feb 15 th 1848 aged 62. Beloved and lamented.
Somerville	59	(Long altar tomb) Here lie the body of Mr James Somerville, native of Berwick on Sea, Scotland who died 23 rd July 1820 aged 69. “He lived 13 years and upwards with George Bryan, Jenkinstown in this County in the capacity as Steward, a situation with which he filled with honour to himself and to the satisfaction of his employer. This stone erected by his Great child as a small tribute of the high sense of integrity and fidelity which he held of his friend and Master.” Side Panel 1 – “Here lie also the body of Wm. Somerville of Castlecomer, son of above James who died Jan 1868 aged 75 years.” Side Panel 2 – “Also Isabella beloved daughter of above Wm. and Anne Jane who died 1861 aged 28. Also Jane Anne, wife of Wm. died Aug 28 th 1891 aged 85.”
Smith	60	Erected by Catherine Smith, Booleyshea in memory of her father Denis Smith who died Mar 5 th 1855 aged 36 years, also her mother, Mary Smith who died May 30 th 1852 aged 59 years. Her brother William died Feb 1 st 1849 aged 18. Her sister Hanoria died April 20 th 1888 aged 52. Her brother Thomas died 16 th Dec 1908. Their daughter Mrs Mary Kelly died 26 th Aug 1953 and her husband Edward died Dec 1 st 1913 aged 36. Their son, Michael Kelly died 19 th Dec 1963 aged 57. Note: Boleyshea – St. Canice’s Parish.
Strangsways (1)	61	(Altar tomb beside Ryans) Here lieth the body of Mrs Anne Strangsways alias Davice wife of James Strangsways Esq. who died 16 th April 1731 aged ? 38 and their daughter Mrs Catherine Ryan alias Strangsways wife of Henry Ryan, Esq. who caused this tomb to be erected. She died April 24 th 1773 aged – yrs.
Strangsways (2)	62	(Date worn away) Joseph Strangsways, Littlefield. ---- Mary ----, County of Kilkenny. Note: Littlefield – near Jenkinstown. See ‘ <i>Memorials of the Dead, St. Mary’s Kilkenny</i> ’ by M. Buggy.
Strangsways (3)	63	(Small upright at head of Strangsways No. 2)

		Here lieth the body of Mrs Margaret Strangsways alias Shearman, wife of Mr John Strangsways who died 7 th ----- 1763 aged 33 years.
Sneyde	64	Erected by Mr George Sneyde in memory of his wife Mrs Catherine Sneyde alias Healy who died Feb 1821 aged 33, also two children, Thomas and Anne, and daughter Jane Sneyde died April 1846.
Vass	65	D.O.M. This stone erected by Robert Vass in memory of his son James, Balleen who died Sept 1 st 1787 aged 24 years, also one of his children and parents. R.I.P. Note: Balleen – Galmoy Barony near Freshford.
Wood (1)	66	(Upright long altar tomb) Here lieth the body of John Wood of Somerton who died Feb 1803 aged 73. His son George Wood of Somerton died Sept 1793 aged 38, also Elizabeth Wood, widow of above John died March 1816 aged 69, and Isobel Wright widow of George Wood being her first husband died July 1816 aged 79. Note: Somerton – in Somerset, England.
Wood (2)	67	Sacred to the memory of Joseph Wood of the City of Kilkenny who died Aug 1840. This monument erected by his widow. Note: Shearman’s Comm. Directory, 1839 gives –Joseph Wood, Woollen Draper, High St., Kilkenny.

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