Historic Graves

HERITAGE COMMUNITY TOURISM

Historicgraves

There are over **3600** historic graveyards in Ireland with **1400** years of history carved into stone. In the past year we have surveyed **6734** graves in **79** graveyards and collaborated with **20** community groups, **7** local authorities and **6** Leader companies.

Project

Every parish in Ireland has an historic graveyard and each site is rich in heritage and local meaning. Names and dates are carved into headstones, they become fixed in the landscape and are part of the identity of that area. Stories abound about both the people and the place and these imbue the graveyard and locality with a meaning beyond the physical presence of the graveyard. Through the extensive survey and recording enabled by the Historic Graves project these stories are collected and made available to all.

In total, there are over 3600 historic graveyards and we aspire to survey and publish every one. We aim to use the surveys as a means to drive community development, economic growth and heritage conservation.

Heritage has been identified as a key differentiator in marketing Ireland as a tourist destination. This project builds on that, connecting people to their own past and the manifold stories and historical characters which make up the identity of their parish.

Historic graveyards link people to places, an aspect of graveyard study which has considerable attraction for genealogists. Furthermore, this connection of people to place has an especially strong potential for creating emotional links with the Irish Diaspora. As part of this project community groups benefit in their engagement with historic graveyards by developing their own genealogical sources and heritage conservation plans. In the same process they are developing a crucial resource for the international marketing of Irish heritage attractions.

We have built the www.historic-graves.ie website, a site that centralises graveyard records and hosts new surveys. It provides an interactive and searchable database of the graveyard data (memorial details, inscriptions, photographs and stories). Users can explore and search the growing database and communities can engage with and publish historic graveyard surveys and related multimedia stories.

HISTORIC GRAVES

Innovation

Innovative toolsets enable community participation.

We have developed digital toolsets that enable community participation in heritage projects, opening up such projects to the richness and multiplicity of local knowledge and understanding. Community groups can investigate their local graveyards by using digital cameras, GPS-enabled devices, wireless internet connections and open source software. This innovation means that the older model of top-down engagement has been replaced by direct interactions – communities can reconnect to their own heritage and can collaborate with local authorities to create tools for heritage-based economic development tailored to their individual needs.

Local knowledge and stories are recorded as heritage media and published to the Internet creating a rich, active and constantly changing experience. This easily accessible store of information can benefit all aspects of heritage and tourism development, and leads communities to become empowered by their own history.

A lot of work is already being done with historic graveyards by communities, city and county councils and we augment that work by engaging people at the grassroots. We aim to empower communities to collaborate with local and statutory authorities. A streamlined data recording system is facilitated by the latest generation of digital cameras, smartphones and GPS receivers. Through this technology pre-existing state-owned data-

Above: Historic graves map view.
Below Right: Layar iPhone app showing the graveyard in Ardmore.
Below: The Zoom H2 audio recorder and Sony HX7 Camera.

A streamlined data recording system is enabled by the latest generation of digital technology

bases can be combined with newly generated geo-located heritage data to create a central repository for grave records.

To this end we have built the www.historicgraves.ie website, a centralised source of data on graveyard records and a host to new surveys. The website is an interactive and searchable database of the graveyard data (memorial details, inscriptions, photographs and stories). Users can explore and search the growing database, and communities can engage and publish historic graveyard surveys and related multimedia stories. On this site we record the local stories associated with the graveyards and present rich multimedia records:

videos of place sand people, and audio files of oral history.

The web-based experience allows information to be distributed across many different media platforms. Smartphone Apps and Augmented Reality (AR) allow this multimedia to be explored onsite in real time. The geo-located media can be delivered on site across different platforms allowing an inclusive and varied 21st century experience of ancient places and practices.

This allows engaging and participative interaction with the heritage. Local communities, genealogical researchers and heritage tourists can all explore and record data in the field. Individuals and groups can actively engage with the heritage by recording the gravestones, transcribing inscriptions and collecting stories associated with the graveyard.

Training

Right: Investigating a cross in the graveyard at Tifeaghna, Co. Kilkenny.
Below Right: Carrying out inscription rubbings.
Below: Eighteenth century graveslab from Inverness in Scotland.

We train groups in the care and conservation of historic graveyards and in graveyard survey. We focus on simple, straightforward approaches to survey and recording as well as the use of more modern equipment (such as GPS equiped cameras) to enable our training to have the broadest impact possible within the community.

Groups in some localities are smaller and more focused – having already assembled a core team – and we go directly to hands-on training in GPS cameras, audio recorders and video production. We aim to integrate cross-generational elements to the project for the media production, with secondary schools becoming involved in recording and publication. Older primary school children can engage with their parents and grandparents, adding texture to the projects.Through this approach the project facilitates a sense of community integration and confidence in the longevity of the results.

Training is provided using two differnt approaches.

Workshops

We provide a series of workshops and practical training sessions where the trainer is *embedded* with a community for a two week period. The first workshop takes place in a local historic graveyard on a weekend in order to involve as many of the community members as possible

and thereafter people *learn-by-doing* during the following two weeks.

In essence, the community is guided to form a sustainable group to achieve their goals. They are trained in the basic techniques of survey, recording and publication with the aim over the two week period being to make them independent. They learn within their own historic graveyards and the training involves publishing their own work to the Internet immediately.

Nightclasses

We run classroom based training programmes across a 6–8 week period introducing people to the subjects of maintenance, conservation and survey of historic graveyards. We have worked closely with local authority Heritage Officers and Parks personnel during these night classes to ensure that constructive relationships are being built with the aspiring local groups. Within the classroom programme, we also provide some practical training. This includes visits to 4–5 historic graveyards, where the course participants get a chance to do hands-on recording using the Historic Graves methodology. This data is then published to the Internet.

HISTORIC GRAVES
Tourism

Eight hundred years of history carved into stone.

Tourism is a key economic driver for local communities throughout the country. Heritage tourism has been valued at contributing 1.2 billion euro to the Irish economy annually. Our historic environment and our living culture differentiate us from many of our neighbours. With local communities, Historic Graves creates a participative tourism experience. It also creates emotional links between potential tourists and places – showing the location of family graves and headstones – and encouraging visitors.

In association with a number of grassroots organisations, local authorities and committed individual participants we are currently developing three tourism related products.

Historic Graveyard Trails

Core groups of historic graveyards will be clustered together as county-based historic graveyard trails. The trails will combine premium sites such as Cashel in Tipperary with other, less well known, sites. The individual graveyards will each have a number of key stories presented, illustrating the history and unique character of the people and communities who use them. An overall National Historic Graveyard Trail will develop in tandem with the county-based system. Each county will have a different focus and a varied, rich tourist experience will be curated.

Traditional information leaflets will be produced and will be available alongside modern information

BERNIE GOLDBACH

Reilig Tigh Fiachna
TIFEAGHNA GRAVEYARD

portals. Websites and smartphone apps will be available to provide rich multimedia records of the sites. The information will be distributed across different media platforms, with videos, pictures, audio recordings and interactive maps available on site.

This allows for participative tourism. Individuals and groups can actively engage with the heritage by recording gravestones and transcribing inscriptions. Using smartphones and augmented reality on site they can also better engage with the rich multimedia stories associated with the graveyard they are in. The data previously collected by the local community can be used in SATNAV systems to direct vistors to the correct historic graveyard.

National Mausoleum Trail

In association with Sandra Coffey, heritage practitioner, Historic Graves are looking for partners to develop the National Mausoleum Trail. We are following the lead of the Glasnevin Trust in enhancing the nationwide resource of death-related places. We aspire to identify suitable mausoleums and work with local communities to develop participative experiences for the community and for tourists. We aim to link the sites together with traditional maps and brochures but also with immersive augmented multimedia feeding through smartphones.

A mausoleum has been described as a funerary structure with the character of a roofed building, large enough for an adult person to stand in, or at least having that appearance. In the majority of cases, those interred in-

Left: A beautifully carved gravestone from Eassie in Scotland. The graveyard also contains a 7th century Pictish carved stone. **Right:** The interior of the Costello Mausoleum in Carrick-on-Shannon. **Below Right:** A cross commemorating Sergeant Cosgrove VC at Aghada Co. Cork.
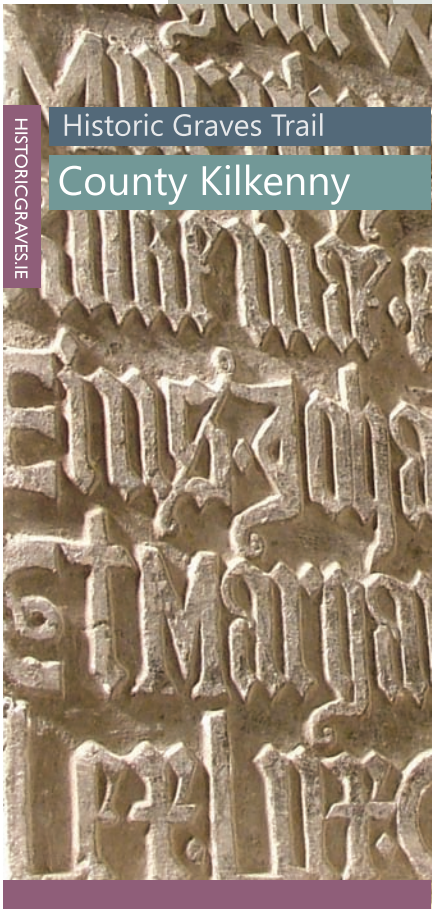

SANDRA COFFEY

side lie in coffins – mostly above the ground, though not always – lined inside with lead sheeting, to prevent the body from decay. Mausoleums are found in every county in Ireland and range from Egyptian style pyramids to Gothic structures. The buildings themselves are iconic and the stories associated with them are fascinating.

Costello Mausoleum, Carrick-on-Shannon, County Leitrim is an excellent example of the site type. This mausoleum, housing the remains of Edward and Josephine Costello, is nestled between two shops on Bridge Street. It was built in the 19th century by Edward Costello, a rich merchant, as a memorial and burial vault for his wife Josephine, who had died two years previously. The structure also functions as a chapel – indeed it is one of the smallest chapels in Europe. Each side of the aisle holds a coffin lined with lead and covered over with slabs of thick reinforced glass. The coffins can be seen through the clear glass, lying side by side. The remains of Josephine (1889) and of Edward who died in 1891 are both interred in this beautiful mausoleum. The site is well cared for and is kept open, so that it can be seen by those who pass through the town.

Garrison Graves Trail

In her study of the army cemetery in Ballincollig, County Cork, Anne Donaldson has identified the huge tourism potential for garrison towns. The garrison towns of Ireland were once outliers of the British Empire, and have strong connections with communities throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Both archival documents and the grave markers in garrison cemeteries bear the names of people connected to the towns, and these resources can be used to create tailored experiences for British tourists. The forthcoming 2014 commemoration of the First World War in Europe can be used as a focus for developing these tourism products and experiences.

In association with Anne Donaldson we propose to initiate surveys of the Garrison graveyards combining local authorities, military historians, local communities and genealogists to tell the rich stories of these places and to identify and enhance the cross-community links represented by the barracks and their graveyards.

Employment

As community and economic development are interconnected we propose to integrate the Trails with the tour guide network being generated by LEADER partnerships throughout the country. This approach will add seasonal employment options to locally-based tour guides. A common marketing approach will create an identity and structure which can provide rich tourism experiences throughout the country – bring visitors to shops, cafés, B&Bs and to trained guides.

Right: Extracts from our Historic Graves trail for County Kilkenny

COUNTY **KILKENNY**

Castlecomer

3

8

7

Freshford

2

Kilkenny

4

5

Bennettsbridge

6

1

Callan

Stoneyford

12

Thomastown

10

11

9

Knocktopher

HISTORICGRAVES.IE

Historic Graves Trail

County Kilkenny

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1 St Peters, Ennisnag

GRAVEYARD

A well preserved church and graveyard with a number of interesting monuments including a 13th century effigy. Jack McEvoy, a skilled carpenter made some of the headstones in St. Peter's graveyard headstones using local and recycled materials including various types of glass.

Address: Ennisnag, Co. Kilkenny
GPS: 52° 32' 41.874" N, 7° 13' 32.0556" W

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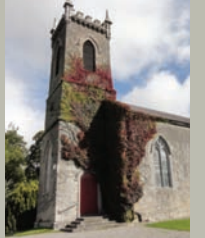
2 Barony, Ballyconra

GRAVEYARD

A historic church and graveyard dating from the Middle Ages. Local anecdotes tell of nefarious deeds in the 1920s when the IRA were said to have dug a shallow grave in the graveyard. A holy well is situated some distance to the south of the graveyard.

Address: Ballyconra, Co. Kilkenny
GPS: 52° 47' 27.1356" N, 7° 21' 49.2768" W

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3 Coolcashin, Freshford

GRAVEYARD

Historic graveyard located within the earthworks of one of the best preserved deserted Anglo-Norman villages in the country. A ruined church within has left numerous pieces of worked stone some of which appear to have been used as grave markers.

Address: Coolcashin, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny
GPS: 52° 46' 16.428" N, 7° 27' 56.1456" W

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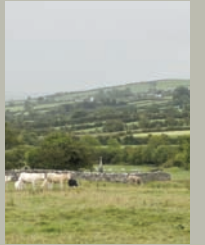
4 St Canices, Kilkenny

CHURCH

St Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower are an essential part of the structural heritage in the vibrant medieval city of Kilkenny. with parts dating form the 6th century. The well-kept and picturesque graveyard contains a number of high quality cut-stone grave markers predating 1700.

Address: The Close, Coach Road, Kilkenny
GPS: 52° 39' 22" N, 7° 15' 35" W

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5 St Mary's, Kilkenny

GRAVEYARD

The parish church of the Hightown of Kilkenny was founded in the 12th century and became one of the most prestigious parish churches in medieval Ireland. The graveyard contains a particularly fine collection of over 400 burial monuments with dates from the 13th to the 20th centuries.

Address: St Mary's Lane, Kilkenny
GPS: 52° 39' 6.1848" N, 7° 15' 6.48" W

Right: Extracts from our Historic Graves leflet for St Peter's graveyard in Ennisnag, Co. Kilkenny

GRAVE YARD

ST PETER'S

St Peter's Church

HISTORICGRAVES.IE

Historic Graveyards

St Peter's, Ennisnag

1 EFFIGY

### Johannes Galfridi - C13th

Medieval (13th century) coffin shaped slab with human head in high relief resting on a pillow showing clerical headdress. It is inscribed to Johannes Filius Galfridi (John Fitz Geoffry). The slab was orignally situated to the east of the graveyard and was relocated to the porch some time after 1952.

Reference: KK-SPEN-091
GPS: 52° 32' 42.4464'' N, 7° 13' 35.1732'' W
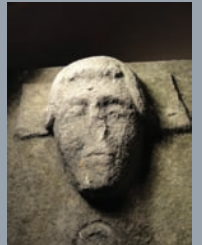
2 GRAVE STONE

Richard Marmion - 1893

An unusual headstone commemorating the Rector of Ennisnag from 1889–1893 which features a stylised representation of both the Chi rho and Alpha - Omega. The Chi Rho depicts the first two letters in the Greek spelling of Christ is one of the earliest forms of Christogram.

Reference: KK-SPEN-017.
GPS: 52° 32' 42.9576'' N, 7° 13' 35.6448'' W

3 GRAVE STONE

Jack McEvoy - 1961

This memorial was made by John Mc Evoy for his own grave. He was the local carpenter and was noted for some fine works in carpentry in the locality. The gravestone is unusual in that it incorporates various types of glass into the design.

Reference KK-SPEN-117
GPS: 52° 32' 41.8668'' N, 7° 13' 34.3128'' W
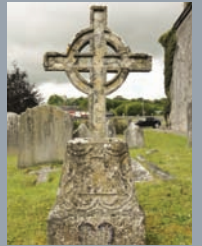
4 WINDOW

William Meredyth - 1888

A fine double lancet stained glass window commemorating William Clayton Meredyth a member of the 7th Huzzars who died in India in 1888 at the age of 22. Erected by his mother the window depicts the Good Shepherd and Saint George with the slayed dragon.

Reference: KK-SPEN-081
GPS: 52° 32' 42.306'' N, 7° 13' 35.2416'' W

5 PLAQUE

John Mosse - 1986

A plaque on the boundary wall of the graveyard. The decoration on this wall Plaque depicts heads of wheat on an outer band, representative of Mr John Stanley Mosse being a member of the well known family of millers from Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny.

Reference: KK-SPEN-075
GPS: 52° 32' 42.612'' N, 7° 13' 36.8652'' W

CASE STUDY

Ennisnag

Six One News: Historic Irish graveyards digitally recorded

St Peter's Graveyard, Ennisnag, County Kilkenny

In this graveyard – which contains both Church of Ireland and Catholic graves – 180 headstones were recorded via photography and paper rubbings. Digital stories (audio and video) attached to the graveyard and in some cases individual graves have been recorded. The project resulted in two religious traditions cooperating to form a common story. The sons and grandsons of farm labourers worked on the field survey in doing newsprint rubbings of ca. 100 headstones. A publican/undertaker's son kept all of the project records in exemplary fashion and a blacksmiths granddaughter was the project photographer. Key landowners, Protestant and Catholic, contributed equally to the graveyard stories. A common identity, based on place, has been identified and enhanced.

This group was featured in an RTE Six One news item in November http://goo.gl/YXtgI. A number of particularly interesting memorials were identified:

Johannes Galfridi - C.13th

Thirteenth century coffin shaped slab with human head in high relief resting on a pillow showing clerical headdress. It is inscribed to Johannes Filius Galfridi (John Fitz Geoffry). The slab was orignally situated to the east of the graveyard and was relocated to the porch some time after 1952. Reference: KK-SPEN-091

Richard Marmion - 1893

An unusual headstone commemorating the Rector of Ennisnag from 1889–1893 which features a stylised representation of both the Chi Rho and Alpha & Omega (ΑΩ). The Chi Rho depicting the first two letters in the Greek spelling of Christ is one of the earliest forms of Christogram. Reference: KK-SPEN-017

Jack McEvoy – 1961

This memorial was made by John McEvoy for his own grave. He was the local carpenter and was noted for some fine works in carpentry in the locality. Unusually the gravestone incorporates various types of glass into the design. Reference KK-SPEN-117

William Meredyth – 1888

A fine double lancet stained glass window commemorating William Clayton Meredyth a member of the 7th Huzzars who died in India in 1888 at the age of 22. Erected by his mother the window depicts the Good Shepherd and Saint George with the slayed dragon. Reference: KK-SPEN-081

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Ballyhoura Development Ltd
Cavan County Council
Cavan-Monaghan LEADER
Cork City Council
Cork County Council
Dublin City Council
Fingal County Council
Fingal LEADER Partnership
Kilkenny Borough Council
Kilkenny LEADER Partnership
Kilkenny County Council
Laois County Council
Laois Partnership
Meath Partnership
Monaghan County Council
North Tipperary LEADER Partnership
South & East Cork Area Development Ltd
Waterford County Council
Waterford LEADER Partnership
Waterford Museum
West Cork Development Partnership

The local community groups with whom we have worked so far, and for whom we provided training, engaged wholeheartedly in the collaborative approach which is a key part of the overall project. A selection of these groups is listed below:

Clontibert Community Group
Tydavnet Community
Errigal Truagh Community Group
Aghada Graveyard Recorders
Imokilly Community Group
Ballineen Enniskeane Heritage Group
Kinsale History Society
Mitchelstown Heritage Society
Bunscoil na Toirbhirte, Mitchelstown
Aghaboe Preservation Society
St Fergal's College, Rathdowney
Clonaslee Vocational School
Ennisnag Graveyard Recorders
Lisdowney Community Group
Gattabawn Community Group
Ardmore/Grange Heritage Group
Ardmore Pattern Festival

The **Historic Graves Project** is seeking collaboration and funding for community development and tourism products.

Community development through Training

Workshops: hands-on training in graveyard recording systems.

Classes: covering care, conservation and survey of historic graveyards.

Opportunities for local authorities to generate positive engagement with local communities.

Economic development through Tourism

Historic Graves Trails: Suitable for every parish; extends to county and national levels. Matches the aims of The Gathering 2013.

Garrison Towns Trails: Over 90 Garrison towns and villages in Ireland with direct connections into the British tourism market: leveraging Genealogical Datasets for 2014 & 2016 commemorations.

National Mausoleum Trail: County based using largely pre-existing resources.