

01

CROSS

Sir Valentine Blake - 1912

A polished granite cross with nice lead relief lettering. The grave plot is surrounded by wrought iron railings. Sir Valentine Blake, 14th Baronet, of the nearby Menlo Castle was a JP for Co. Galway and, in 1872, served as High Sheriff for the County.

Reference: GA-MNLO-0001.  
GPS: 53° 18' 1.9116" N, 9° 4' 39.9432" W



43

CROSS

Tomás Leighléis - 1984

A limestone celtic cross commemorating the Lawless family including the storyteller Tomás Leighléis agus a bhean Nora. It includes an inscription in Irish 'Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam'. There are 13 fine examples of Celtic crosses in Menlo.

Reference GA-MNLO-0043  
GPS: 53° 18' 0.2988" N, 9° 4' 38.6148" W



49

CHEST TOMB

Donelan - 1899

The Donelan memorial is the only chest tomb in Menlo cemetery. It commemorates Ellis Donelan (nee Lambert of Cregclare) who died aged 66 in 1899. The inscription describes her as 'relict', which is an old word for widow, of J. Donelan of Killeagh.

Reference: GA-MNLO-0049  
GPS: 53° 18' 1.206" N, 9° 4' 38.838" W



73

LEDGER

Quigly - 1848

The Quigly ledger is a very nice example of a nineteenth century limestone ledger stone which commemorates John Quigly and family. The stone has a decorative moulding around the edge with a stonemason's name, Reynolds, carved at the bottom.

Reference: GA-MNLO-0073  
GPS: 53° 18' 1.1808" N, 9° 4' 37.776" W



111

LEDGER

The Dillon Family - 1830

The Dillon family ledger was abandoned at the edge of Lake Corrib near the Lawless household. It may have been brought across the lake from Anglingham Quarry with the intention of erecting it in Menlo cemetery. The ledger features an ornate IHS and cross.

Reference: GA-MNLO-0111  
GPS: 53° 18' 10.4976" N, 9° 4' 30.6444" W



Reilig Mhionlaigh | Menlo Cemetery

Fáilte go dtí Reilig Mhionlaigh ar bruach na Coiribe. The cemetery at Menlo overlooks Lough Corrib and provides a great view of it between the mature trees. Surrounded by traditional stone walling in parts, the site is also a haven for wildlife and natural heritage. The preservation of biodiversity in fauna and flora is achieved by balanced grass cutting and careful woodland maintenance around the site.

The ground was donated for use as a cemetery to the inhabitants of Menlo by the Blake family from Menlo Castle in the early 19th century. Some of the Blake family are buried alongside great local oarsmen and the great storyteller Tomás Leighléis a selection of whose stories were published by the Irish Folklore Commission.

The graveyard is an important place of reflection for the community and the history of the area is reflected in the inscriptions on the headstones, box-tombs and ledgers found there. These monuments are well preserved and carefully maintained. A feature of many of the more recent ones is that their inscriptions contain a line in the Irish language. Some also bear sporting imagery (golfers and oarsmen). A plaque at the entrance to the cemetery commemorates Menlo Emmets Rowing Club and another, a friendship agreement with Menlo Park in California. A seat commemorates the historian Fr. Ó Laoi.

A total of 313 individuals are commemorated on 110 grave memorials, which include; 81 headstones, 9 ledger stones, 1 chest tomb and 22 crosses. The earliest legible memorial dates to 1832 (GA-MNLO-82) although most of the memorials date to the 20th century. The most frequently recorded surnames in Menlo are Conneely (10) spelt in four different ways, Faherty (10) spelt in two different ways, Folan (6), King (5) and Walsh (5).

While in the area, visitors may wish to see the obelisk erected (in the grounds) in memory of Mrs. Blake who died in a fire in Menlo Castle in 1910. Nearby too is a Dillon family gravestone (GA-MNLO-111) which is still at the lakeside near the holy well. This may have been brought across the lake from Anglingham Quarry, but because a corner of it split, was abandoned at the edge of the lake. The Leacht Cuimhne, a wayside cenotaph of 17th century date on Monument Road is also worth visiting.

This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway City Council as an action of the Galway City Heritage Plan. The full results of the survey are available on [www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/menlo/ga-mnlo](http://www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/menlo/ga-mnlo) or on the website of Galway City Council [www.galwaycity.ie](http://www.galwaycity.ie).

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council

HISTORICGRAVES.COM

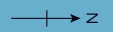
Reilig Mhionlaigh  
Mionlach, Gaillimh  
Historic Cemetery, Menlo, Galway City



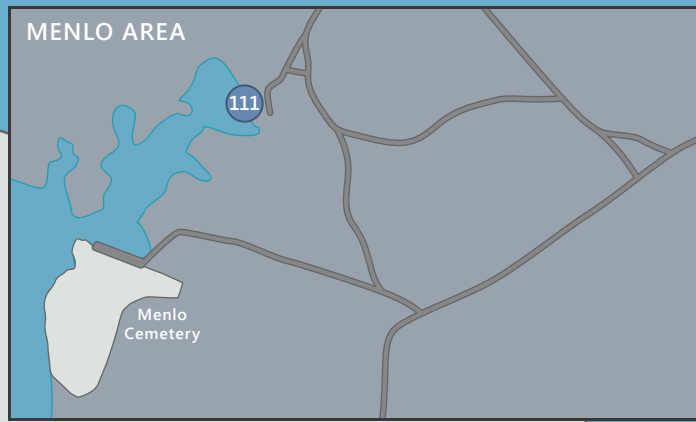


# Reilig Mhionlaigh

Menlo Cemetery



Lough Corrib



## Eolas | Information

Menlo Cemetery is privately owned and is administered and maintained by local people. As part of Galway City Council's policy of making information on heritage freely available, a summary brochure like this one, with a map of each of Galway City's 27 or so burial areas is being prepared. These are being printed along with a clear, easy to use map as a guide for those who visit our graveyards. The Monuments on the maps are numbered and are linked to the [historicgraves.com](http://historicgraves.com) and Galway City Council ([www.galwaycity.ie](http://www.galwaycity.ie)) websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship with those buried at Menlo without charge. This is a public service. Copies of this leaflet are available from the Heritage Office, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway (Tel: 091 536547/536516), from the local community centre and from city library branches free of charge.