



View of upper part of Forthill Cemetery looking towards Galway City centre.



View of lower part of Forthill Cemetery looking east towards Lough Atalia.

Eolas | Information

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 28 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 and Galway City Council (www.galwaycity.ie) websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship with those buried at Forthill without charge. This is a public service. Copies of this leaflet and of Magdalen Laundry, Menlo, Mercy Convent, Old Ragoon, Roscam, St Mary's Dominican, St Patrick's and Salthill Upper are available from the Heritage Office, Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway (Tel: 091 536547/536516) and from city library branches free of charge.



Forthill Cemetery | Reilig Forthill

The graveyard at Forthill occupies the site of the late medieval Augustinian foundation which was demolished in the 17th century. A star-shaped fort was built on the site and elements of its shape are still traceable in boundary walls and ditched areas at the site. The entrance gateway, which dates to the mid nineteenth century faces onto Lough Atalia Road. There is a mortuary chapel inside the entrance gate which bears a plaque inscribed in Latin commemorating the dedication of the site to St Augustine in 1500. There are two modern monuments to soldiers and sailors of the Spanish Armada killed there in the 16th century (GA-FTHL-0603 & GA-FTHL-0937).

The graveyard contains a fine range of monuments dating mainly from the 18th to 20th centuries and ranging from plain ledgers to plain concrete crosses and from Classical Revival monuments to Celtic Revival crosses. The oldest recumbent slab in the graveyard commemorates Mary Martin, daughter of Andrew Martin and wife to Ignatius Kirwan, who died in 1736 (GA-FTHL-0579). There are a group of west-facing recumbent slabs close to the northern wall of the graveyard which are marked at the base with a small cross and St. A. including a group of Augustinian priests and nuns (GA-FTHL-0583-0589), Dominick & Julian Lynch dated to 1757 (GA-FTHL-0524), Mary Martin dated to 1736 (GA-FTHL-0579) and George and Margaret Staunton dated 1781 (GA-FTHL-0525). There are a number of monuments with vocational symbolism which include a set of blacksmith's tools (GA-FTHL-0203), a farmer's plough (GA-FTHL-0623), a mason's trowel (GA-FTHL-0705) and a weaver's shears and shuttle (GA-FTHL-0225) and some wonderful examples of 18th and 19th century lettering. The cemetery has been lovingly maintained by several generations of the McDonagh family and is the property of the Augustinian order.

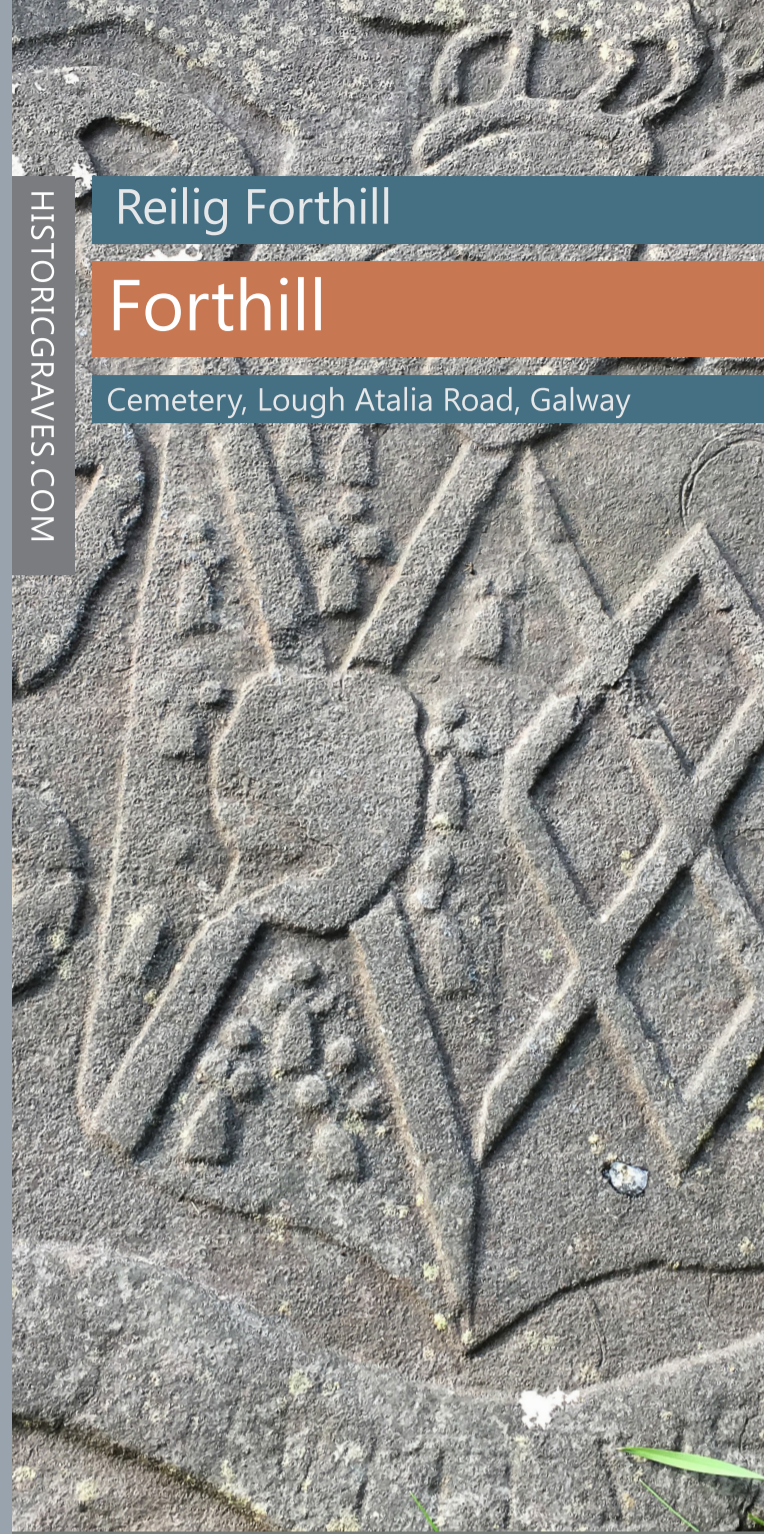
Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer, Galway City Council.

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Reilig Forthill

Forthill

Cemetery, Lough Atalia Road, Galway

www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/forthill/ga-fohi

Some Examples | Cuid de na Leachtaí

175 **Patrick Keating - 1812**

HEADSTONE

There is a grim reminder etched on this stone reminding that death is inevitable... 'as you are now so once was I as I am you soon will be'. This headstone commemorates a five year old boy and it is unusual to find such a reminder on a child's headstone.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0175
GPS: 53° 16' 17.3712" N, 9° 2' 50.5932" W

203 **Thomas M Connolly - 1820s**

LEDGER

A set of blacksmith's tools are incised on this early-19th century recumbent stone. A large hammer, anvil and pincers are located at the base of the slab.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0203
GPS: 53° 16' 16.8456" N, 9° 2' 50.2476" W

213 **No Inscription**

HEADSTONE

There are a number of white concrete crosses in Forthill graveyard. Many were constructed by John McDonagh, the former caretaker of Forthill (GA-FTHL-0936). Some of them are uninscribed while others have inscriptions fixed at the intersection.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0213
GPS: 53° 16' 16.2696" N, 9° 2' 50.0208" W

225 **Michael Reily - 1792**

LEDGER

The vocational symbols of a weaver are incised on this late-18th century recumbent stone. The shears are located in the bottom left hand corner of the slab and the shuttle is carved underneath the primary inscription.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0225
GPS: 53° 16' 17.0328" N, 9° 2' 49.9596" W

240 **Michael McNamara - 1834**

LEDGER

This recumbent stone shows the conjoined coats of arms of Lynch and French families. The crest of the male line, Lynch on the left shows the trefoil, chevron and lynx and the female line of French on the right shows the ermine and chevron.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0240
GPS: 53° 16' 16.716" N, 9° 2' 49.722" W

347 **Mary Murray - 1834**

CHEST TOMB

This large chest tomb commemorates eight members of the Murray family. The tomb is decorated with the arms of the Murray's, Earls of Atholl in Scotland.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0347
GPS: 53° 16' 16.5288" N, 9° 2' 48.1884" W

348 **No inscription**

HEADSTONE

This is a nice example of an iron cross which is decorated with a small figure of the crucified Christ at the intersection. The cross is leaning against a plain headstone which commemorates Tom Fahy.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0348
GPS: 53° 16' 16.5288" N, 9° 2' 48.2388" W

439 **Augustinians**

VAULT

A large vault is located against the south-eastern boundary wall of Forthill. The Augustinian friars who were interred here were moved. There are other memorials to the Augustinians in Forthill (583-589 and 814).

Reference: GA-FTHL-0439
GPS: 53° 16' 16.0248" N, 9° 2' 47.238" W

487 **John Belton - 1841**

HEADSTONE

The headstone commemorates a young man of 17. The final line of the inscription is written in Irish: *A Thiarna Dean Trocaire* (Lord have mercy). This is the only memorial in Forthill, dated before the foundation of the Irish State, that includes a prayer in Irish.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0487
GPS: 53° 16' 18.1344" N, 9° 2' 49.8156" W

525 **George Staunton - 1781**

LEDGER

This recumbent slab is west facing. It is a high status grave which may have been reused as a friar's graves. George and Margaret Staunton (otherwise Leonard of Cargin) are commemorated on the stone which also includes an inscription to Thomas O'Melia.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0525
GPS: 53° 16' 18.1344" N, 9° 2' 49.56" W

602 **John Bodkin - 1748**

LEDGER

This small recumbent stone is the second oldest dated stone in Forthill. The inscription is carved in relief on the left hand side and the conjoined coat of arms of the Bodkin and Blake families are carved on the right hand side.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0602
GPS: 53° 16' 18.1992" N, 9° 2' 49.254" W

623 **Patrick Nestor - 1867**

LEDGER

The vocational symbols of a farmer are incised on this late-19th century recumbent stone. A ploughshare and coulter are carved in the top right hand corner of the stone.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0623
GPS: 53° 16' 18.0336" N, 9° 2' 48.9444" W

761 **Frederick William - 1866**

HEADSTONE

This headstone commemorated a small child Frederick William, son of Captain Thompson of the Ship British America TT. Frederick was born at sea in 1864 and died at sea in 1866, an unusual testament to the maritime tradition of Galway.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0761
GPS: 53° 16' 18.2244" N, 9° 2' 47.2956" W

861 **Thomas McDonogh - 1902**

CROSS

This tall limestone cross in a Celtic revival style was made for an exhibition in New York and was purchased on its return from the US by the Galway businessman Thomas McDonogh to commemorate himself and his family.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0861
GPS: 53° 16' 17.2452" N, 9° 2' 46.59" W

937 **Sailors of the Spanish Armada**

PLAQUE

This wall plaque and a second (603) were erected in memory of more than 300 sailors of the Spanish Armada who are buried in Forthill. They had washed ashore in 1588 and had been executed by the English Authorities in Galway.

Reference: GA-FTHL-0937
GPS: 53° 16' 16.4532" N, 9° 2' 46.3704" W

Reilig Forthill

Forthill Cemetery



Symbol	Description
□	Headstone
□	Kerbed Grave
■	Cross or Pedestal
■	Ledger or Chest tomb
□	Vault or Mausoleum