

LISNASKEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



AGHALURCHER CHURCH AND GRAVEYARD

This is one of the oldest graveyards in the County and high up from road level is the site of several half-buried "Giants Graves" which is where whole families were buried or people of very high status. The Church itself was dedicated to St. Ronan who died sometime before 635 A.D. and its name means "the field of the caste or throw" that indicates how they thought he had chosen the site. The stone Church on this spot was built at the close of the 9th century and the records show that Thomas Maguire put on a "French roof" in 1447. This was the Church of the Maguire family who lived and ruled from Lisnaskea and Derrylin with plenty of Maguire graves here. However, the site was desecrated in 1484 because Patrick Mac Edmond Maguire was killed by his five brothers at the altar, followed in 1486 by another murder at the gate when Don Maguire son of Edmund was killed by the sons of Thomas. The Church was still standing in 1602 when O' Sullivan Beare visited but recorded as "ruined" in the 1622 Clogher Visitation Return. The graves slabs set into the wall mention Balford (also Belfourd both old ways of spelling Balfour) and Galbraith families and just at the bottom of the photograph with the thick stonewall is a grave-slab which reads "James Foster who was killed in His Majesties Service King William in 1689". Other Foster headstones are dated 1687 and also 1689.

Directions: From Lisnaskea you turn right on the road to Crom, just after Courtenay's garage. Continue on the Crom Road for about a mile and there will be a signpost to Aghalurcher Church to the right. Follow this for another mile and you will come across the church to the left.

Victoria Herbert