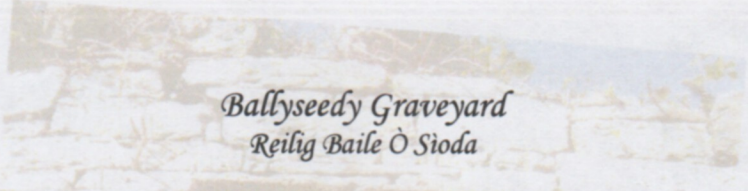


Ballyseedy Graveyard
Reilig Baile Ó Sioda





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The history of the church ruin in Ballyseedy graveyard is a little obscure. The ruin of the church is located in the north-west corner of the graveyard.

In a record from 1417, it states that a Patrick Offighillig was vicar of Balissidia (King 1931, 21), and that this medieval parish church was in ruins in 1756 and its patron was the Blennerhassett family in whose demesne lands the church was built. It was a simple structure of one room, the nave. Its dimensions are 48ft long by 19ft 6ins wide, and it possibly had a thatched roof. The walls, which are 3ft thick, are built of local quarried lime stone. The window in the east gable is formed of brown sandstone and limestone.

There was also a window on the west gable but it was destroyed and filled up with modern mason work.

The Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837, reports that the church was a ruin at that time and masses were then celebrated in the school house in Farmer's Bridge until the existing Ballyseedy Church of Ireland was built circa 1840. There are parish records of marriages having taken place here in the eighteenth century. William Williams (no address stated) and a Cecelia Moor from Kilgobbin are recorded as married in Ballyseedy Church of Ireland on April 28th 1713.



The Donovan Burial Plot – the inscription reads;
This Tomb Was Erected By
John Donovan
For Him & Family
AD 1838

This is one of the biggest tombs in the graveyard, but also very plain in terms of adornment. John Donovan founded a hardware firm in The Square, Tralee in the early 1800's. He was the first ever to export a cargo of timber from North America to Tralee. Between 1848 and 1856 one of the most important ships in the Donovan fleet was "The Jeannie Johnson", carrying emigrants on the outward journey to Quebec and the all-important cargo of timber on the return voyage. John Donovan died 13th April 1864. According to 'The Kerry Evening Post' there were 174 carriages, the majority drawn by two horses in the funeral cortege which was two miles long: the first of the mourners had disappeared into the woods of Ballyseedy, when the close of the funeral cars were descending the south eastern slope of the "Mile Height".



Below left - map of Ballyseedy Graveyard –
(not drawn to scale)

In 2010 all burial plots in the Graveyard were documented and charted by Noel Griffin with details of the inscriptions on all tombs and headstones accompanied with a photograph of each plot.



For further information on any of the burial plots in Ballyseedy Graveyard
Noel Griffin can be contacted by email – ballyseedycem@gmail.com
or on face book www.facebook.com/ballyseedyburialground
All photographs courtesy of Noel Griffin