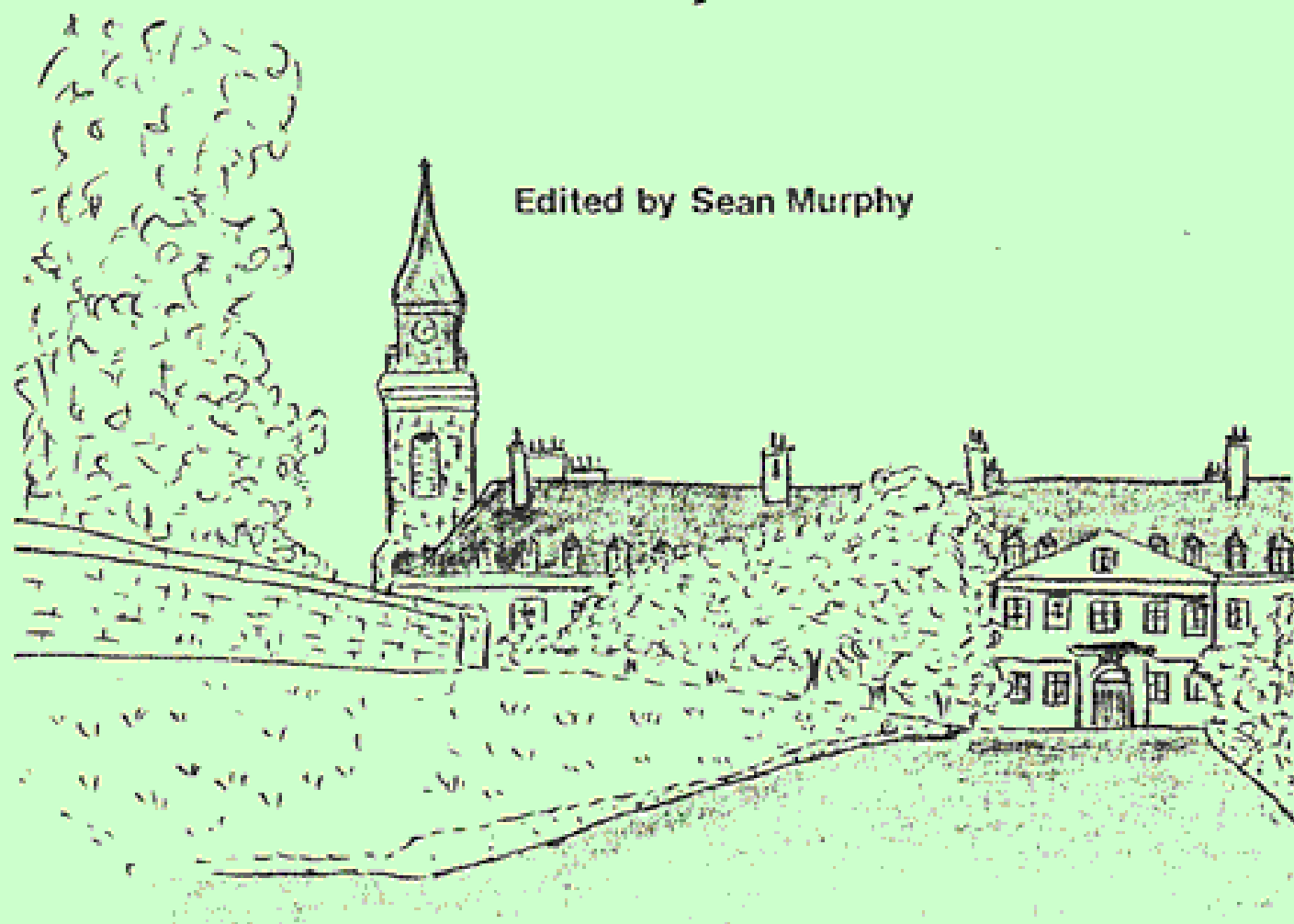


**Bully's Acre and Royal
Hospital Kilmainham
graveyards: history
and inscriptions**

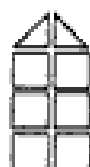
Edited by Sean Murphy



DIVELINA PUBLICATIONS

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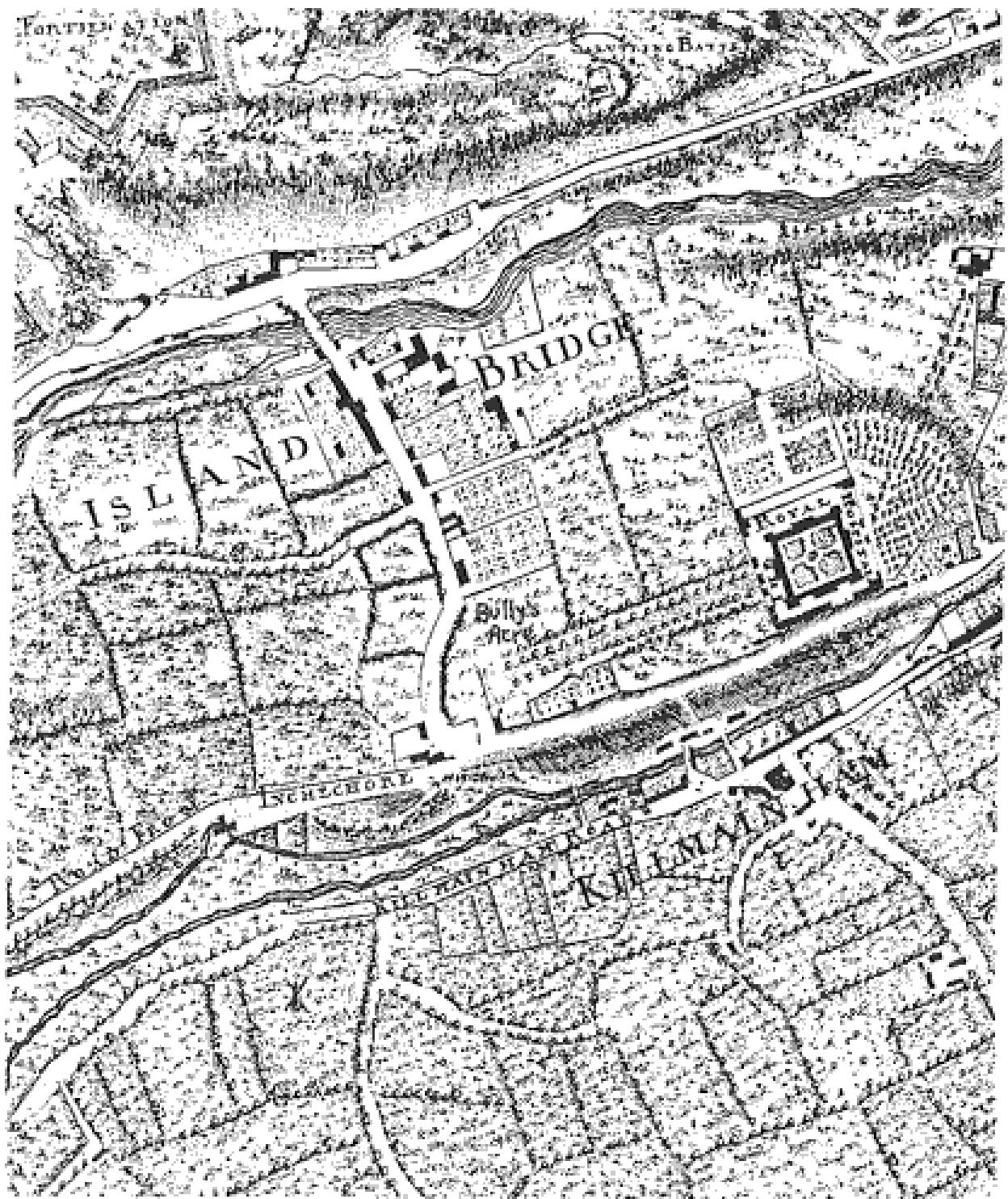
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Kilmainham and district (from John Rocque, Plan of the city of Dublin and the environs, 1756)

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

KILMAINHAM is a town and townland in the parish of St James, was formerly located in County Dublin but is now within the municipal boundaries of Dublin city. The name 'Kilmainham' derives from the Gaelic Cill Maignenn, which means the church of Maignenn, an early seventh-century Irish saint. Little is known about St Maignenn, but there are suggestions that his establishment at Kilmainham may have encompassed a hospice of some sort as well as a religious centre (Falkiner, 1906-7, 279). It is not clear when the monastery of St Maignenn ceased to exist, but the cross-shaft still to be seen in the graveyard known as 'Bully's Acre' may be the remains of a 'termon' or boundary cross associated with the monastery.

Kilmainham next featured as a place of strategic importance in the conflicts between the native Irish and the invading Norsemen or Vikings in the eleventh century. While the precise location of the first Norse longphort or settlement in Dublin in the ninth century has not yet been established, archaeological evidence of a great Viking cemetery was discovered in the Kilmainham-Islandbridge area during railway excavations in the last century (Cosgrove ed, 12-13). According to tradition, the bodies of the son and grandson of Brian Boru, and even Brian himself, were buried in Kilmainham near the cross-shaft after the battle of Clontarf in 1014.

In the wake of the Anglo-Norman invasion, a priory was established in Kilmainham in 1174 by Richard earl of Pembroke, better known by his nickname 'Strongbow'. The priory was established for the Knights Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem, and not, as used to be believed, for the Knights Templars (Falkiner, 1906-7, 276-7). The term 'hospital' of course formerly had a wider meaning than an institution for the care of the

sick, and the primary functions of the Knights Hospitallers were to provide hospitality for pilgrims and to take care of the poor. The church of St Maignenn appears to have been succeeded by the church of St John, which was run by the Knights Hospitallers and was parochial as well as monastic (Barrow, 108, 110).

As a result of the Reformation of Henry VIII, Irish monasteries were suppressed, and the priory at Kilmainham was abolished in 1540. Aside from a brief reconstitution during the reign of Queen Mary, ownership of the priory and its lands was retained by the crown. The priory was occasionally used as a residence by the viceroys and for state functions, but after 1588 the buildings were allowed fall into decay and St John's Church became a roofless ruin (Falkiner, 1904, 44-6, Morrin ed, 1, 57, 136).

On taking up the office of viceroy for the second time in 1677, the duke of Ormond put into effect plans to establish a hospital or home for retired soldiers on the site of the former priory at Kilmainham. The foundation stone of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham was laid in 1680 and the first pensioners had taken up residence by 1684. The Royal Hospital is an outstanding building designed by the architect William Robinson, and not as was claimed in the past, by Wren. The hospital continued as a home for old soldiers until 1927, five years after the winning of Irish independence, and then served as Garda Headquarters until 1949 when it was vacated because of its poor structural condition (Craig, 58-9, 65). Having been used for storage for many years, the Royal Hospital was magnificiently refurbished in 1980-4 and is now a national centre for arts and culture open to the public, being well worth a visit. During a trip to Innsbruck in Austria, the writer was most impressed with the Museum of Tyrolean Folk Art, and suggests that a similar Irish folk museum might eventually be established in the Royal Hospital as a permanent anchor exhibition, while the centre's present varied programme of functions, concerts and art and other

exhibitions could of course be maintained.

The cemetery attached to the church of St John of Kilmainham continued in use despite the suppression of the priory of the Knights Hospitallers, and even after the establishment of the Royal Hospital. The graveyard was considered to be on common ground and was especially popular with the poorer citizens of Dublin and of the Liberties in the south-west of the city in particular, as burials could be performed without payment of fees, or on payment of reduced fees extracted by unofficial caretakers. The religious motivation of desiring burial in holy ground connected with a monastery is also of importance in the Irish context, and would explain why the graveyard continued to be used by the relatively well-off as well as the poor.

The graveyard became known popularly as 'Bully's Acre' and more officially as the 'Hospital Fields'. Two explanations have been advanced for the popular name, one that 'Bully' was a corruption of 'bailiff' or 'baily', one of the officials of the Kilmainham Priory, the other that it derived from the cemetery being a place where pugilists or boxers fought (Childers et al, 24). Another dictionary archaic meaning of 'bully' is 'lover', and given that graveyards have often been put to more vital uses, this should be added to the list of possible explanations of the name. In addition to being a unit of measurement, 'acre' of course also meant a field or piece of land, and Bully's Acre actually measures 3.7 acres.

By the eighteenth century the use of Bully's Acre as a common burial ground had become a cause of considerable annoyance to the Royal Hospital authorities. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that the holy well of St John adjoining Bully's Acre attracted large crowds on to Royal Hospital property every year around 24 June, for the 'pattern' or celebration of the feast of St John the Baptist. A passage through the grounds of the hospital had been created especially for the convenience of the earl of Galway, who lived in Islandbridge, but 'Lord Galway's Walk' was

appropriated for general use as a short cut to the city, despite efforts to close it after the earl's death. Thus in June 1737 a committee of Royal Hospital governors complained that one of the hospital fields was 'generally by day and night full of idle and disorderly people, the grass is trod down [and] the cattle stray', while in August of the same year walls erected to exclude trespassers were 'insolently and maliciously thrown down' (RHK minutes, 5, 174-5).

An account written by the Royal Hospital surveyor Sir John Trail in 1795 and recorded in the institution's minutes, provides us with fascinating details of the history of Bully's Acre in the middle years of the eighteenth century (RHK minutes, 7, 111-15). According to Trail, one Andrew Cullen, a farmer, dairyman and publican of Gallow's Hill, farmed land including Bully's Acre from the Royal Hospital, while the area around St John's Well was controlled by a family named Flanagan. Cullen charged from 1d to 3d per funeral in Bully's Acre, according to the means of the mourners, while the equally enterprising Flanagans sold vessels to drink water from St John's Well, and also ale, spirits and refreshments for the 'credulous devotees'. While conceding that Cullen enforced some order in the graveyard, Trail claimed that the whole situation was generally productive of riot and debauchery, due to the vast crowds attracted to the graveyard and the well.

Thus matters continued until the Royal Hospital governors decided on 11 November 1755 to take steps to end the practice of using part of the institution's land as a burial ground (RHK minutes, 5, 85). Perhaps significantly, this decision was taken following a petition of Rev William Tisdall, chaplain to the hospital and vicar of St James's parish, who may have been motivated by loss of burial fees in St James's parochial graveyard in James's Street. Major General Michael O'Brien Dilkes was appointed master of the Royal Hospital by commission dated 18 November 1755, and he soon took steps to implement the governors'

decision. He applied to the magistrates to have the 'nocturnal revels' on hospital property ended, enclosed Bully's Acre with walls, levelled the graves and removed the headstones, even going so far as to inter the cross-shaft popularly associated with Brian Boru. Despite protests by Cullen and the Flanagans, Dilkes was able to keep the graveyard closed, and the more respectable elements of society applauded his action.

However, when Dilkes attempted to go further and had gates erected across the path from Islandbridge, men of property joined the opposition to him. A grand jury of County Dublin declared in late 1763 that the way from Islandbridge should not be obstructed, and the Royal Hospital's appeal in the court of king's bench failed in 1764 (RHK minutes, 5, 189). Encouraged by those who had applied to the grand jury and incited by Cullen and the Flanagans, a mob set out to pull down the gates, but Dilkes anticipated their action by having the gates removed himself. After a momentary hesitation, the mob turned its attention to Bully's Acre and demolished the west wall in less than half an hour, allowing the place to be used once more as a common burial ground. Dilkes appears to have had enough at this stage, for he made no attempt to punish the violators or re-enclose the burial ground. Cullen no longer charged for burials, but he continued to enjoy the advantage of pasturage on the disputed land, while the Flanagans resumed business in the vicinity of St John's Well. Thus was the might of the British Army constrained in eighteenth-century Dublin by the actions of the mob, civilian enterprise and the power of popular devotion.

A highly imaginative account of the 1760s disturbances, obviously based on local folklore, had a mob of the notorious Liberty Boys led by a certain Timothy Fairbrother attacking the Royal Hospital, in revenge for the loss of Fairbrother's girlfriend to a sergeant resident in the hospital! This unlikely tale, contained in an 1843 history of the hospital,

claimed that about 300 Liberty Boys broke through the western gate, but were repelled by armed pensioners and Fairbrother himself shot dead (Burton, 220-2). No corroboration has yet been found of Liberty Boys involvement in the resistance to attempts by the Royal Hospital authorities to enclose their lands. Yet as defenders of the interests of the working men and poorer inhabitants of the Liberties, it is not unlikely that the Liberty Boys would have been to the fore in the campaign to restore burial rights in Bully's Acre.

No doubt as a consequence of the events of 1764, no further efforts were made in succeeding years to interfere with the use of Bully's Acre as a common burial ground. Andrew Cullen died about 1770, and his widow continued in occupation of her section of the disputed lands, including Bully's Acre, but she could not stop her neighbours grazing them in common. Her interest passed to her son James on her death about 1785, and he in turn let the family farm to one Drum, a miller. James Cullen died in distressed circumstances in 1792, whereupon his landlord Captain Cane resumed possession of the Cullen lands in Inchicore and Kilmainham, and received rent from Drum. The Flanagans were more fortunate in keeping possession and use of their section of the disputed hospital lands, but eventually sold their interest to the wealthy Timothy Mahon, and after his death about 1788 the title was acquired by John White, a distiller in James's Street (again, these particulars come from Trail's remarkably detailed account, in RHK minutes, 7, 114-15).

Exposed and unprotected, Bully's Acre had fallen into a woeful condition by the 1790s, and in 1795 a county grand jury voted it a 'public nuisance'. The grand jury noted that in this 'once highly venerated repository for the dead' shocking scenes were exhibited, including 'swine devouring human bodies while in the most pernicious state of putrefaction, and the torn remains of males and females left exposed to public view'. The Royal Hospital governors

decided therefore on 20 July 1795 to have a wall, gate and lodge erected at a cost of £185 2s 3d, of which £50 was donated by the grand jury. On foot of the report of Sir John Trail, to which reference has already been made, the governors also decided to commence legal proceedings to recover possession of the lands in dispute, but nothing appears to have come of this decision (RHK minutes, 7, 109-10, 115). The privilege of free burial was thus continued in Bully's Acre, with proper supervision for a time at least, and in addition the ancient cross-shaft was re-erected and a stone fountain provided on the site of St John's Well beside the South Circular Road (Childers et al, 28). The striking gate tower guarding the western entrance to the Royal Hospital is the work of the architect Francis Johnston and dates from 1815, but was only erected in its present position in the 1840s, having been moved from its original location near Kingsbridge (now Heuston) railway station to avoid traffic congestion (Craig, 285, Costello, Murray and Beaumont, 16).

Before the anatomy act of 1832 enabled doctors to obtain bodies for dissection by legitimate means, reliance had to be placed on the services of body-snatchers, known also as 'resurrectionists' or 'sack-em-ups'. With its plentiful supply of pauper burials, Bully's Acre was a favourite haunt of the body-snatchers. Walter Thomas Meyler recalled how he had been taken to visit Bully's Acre as a child in the late 1810s or early 1820s, where he had been shown Brian Boru's supposed grave, and to his terror, 'the graves desecrated by the "sack-em-ups", and strewn over in several places by shreds of winding sheets' (Meyler, 1, 33).

Not all resurrectionists were ruffians acting for monetary gain, but included doctors and students seeking to advance medical science. One such appears to have been Peter Harkan, a demonstrator in Crampton's medical school, who was surprised one night by watchmen in Bully's Acre while leading some pupils on a grave-

robbing expedition. Caught when climbing over the boundary wall, the unfortunate Harkan was subjected to a tug-of-war between his pupils and the watchmen, and though he eventually managed to escape, it was believed that his death in 1814 in his early 30s was due to the injuries he received in this incident (Fleetwood, 192).

Ireland was visited by a cholera epidemic in 1832, and the increased mortality in Dublin meant that the numbers of burials in Bully's Acre rose dramatically. Thus it was reported that in a ten-day period ended 2 May 1832, nearly 500 bodies had been buried in the graveyard (RHK minutes, 14, 208). A voluntary organisation called the Humane Society of the Royal Hospital Fields was active about this time in endeavouring to regulate burials in Bully's Acre, employing eight men for the purpose of digging graves (DEP, 1 May 1832, 3). The congested state of Bully's Acre was causing the governors of the Royal Hospital such concern that on 2 May they ordered that cholera victims and non-parishoners of St James should no longer be buried there (RHK minutes, 14, 210-11). Cholera had also appeared among the Royal Hospital pensioners, necessitating their isolation in a special ward away from the main buildings, under the care of the hospital surgeon, Dr George Renny (ibid, 211).

The governors' prohibition does not appear to have solved the problem of overcrowding in Bully's Acre, so that the Board of Health for the city of Dublin issued a notice ordering the temporary complete closure of the burial ground from 30 June 1832. The notice referred to the 'frightful state' of Bully's Acre due to 'the immense number of bodies buried there', with 'many bodies lying exposed, without any covering', so that the graveyard had become 'an awful nuisance and highly dangerous to the public health' (DEP, 26 June 1832, 2).

It was calculated that in the six months before its closure, a total of 3,200 burials took place in Bully's

Acre (Dalton, 631). Those seeking an alternative free burial place to Bully's Acre were referred to the specially opened cholera burial ground in Grangegorman Lane, the site of which still exists, but without any memorials or commemorative notice. Bully's Acre appears to have been temporarily re-opened in 1833 following a resurgence of cholera, but despite remonstrances no burials were allowed in the graveyard after that year ('Report on table of deaths', 1851 census, 506). St John's Well was still attracting devotees when its site was obliterated to make way for the Great Southern and Western Railway in the 1840s, though a relocated remnant survived for some years more on the opposite side of the South Circular Road (Childers et al, 29-30, Joyce, 340-2).

This then is the story of Bully's Acre and the adjacent St John's Well, showing how ancient traditions usually associated with rural places could survive for so long despite the proximity of the metropolis. Like the Phoenix Park across the river Liffey, the Royal Hospital and its grounds today present a scene that has not changed greatly since the eighteenth century, yet are only a fifteen or twenty minutes' bus journey from the city centre. If the visitor to the Royal Hospital looks down the western avenue, past fields occasionally complete with grazing cows, there to the right of Johnston's gate tower will be seen the walls of Bully's Acre. There are two military cemeteries in the grounds of the Royal Hospital in addition to Bully's Acre, the Officers' Burial Ground and the Privates' Burial Ground. All three graveyards are in the care of the Office of Public Works, but are generally locked and special permission is required to view them. It seems to the writer that Bully's Acre in particular would be of interest to visitors to the Royal Hospital complex because of its historical associations, and it is recommended that the cemetery should be made safe and landscaped, and a notice board erected containing descriptive information drawn from the present booklet.

Only 70 tombstones survive above ground in Bully's Acre, belying the great number of graves it contains. The surviving stones range in date from 1764 to 1832, and the following table indicates that Bully's Acre may have been used most intensively by those who could afford memorials in the period 1781-1820.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Gravestones</u>
1764-1780	5
1781-1800	20
1801-1820	23
1821-1832	7
Undated	15
	<hr/>
Total	70

The surviving tombstones are mostly those of relatively well-off tradespeople from the south-west of the city, and the common 'IHS' motif indicates that nearly all were catholic.

The earliest tombstone in the Kilmainham graveyards, Hacket 1652, is actually located in the Officers' Burial Ground, which shows that burials continued to take place in the period between the suppression of the priory of the Knights Hospitallers and the foundation of the Royal Hospital. It is likely that many more tombstones, as well as archaeological remains, are buried underground in the Kilmainham graveyards, either because they have sunk over the centuries or were levelled during various clearances. The most notable individuals buried in Bully's Acre were the rebel Robert Emmet, whose corpse was temporarily interred there before being removed to its unknown final resting place, and the boxer Dan Donnelly, whose memorial has not survived (see below for further details). Eight memorial inscriptions from Bully's Acre, and an additional eight from the Officers' Burial Ground, were printed in the Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland, and these are indicated in the text below.

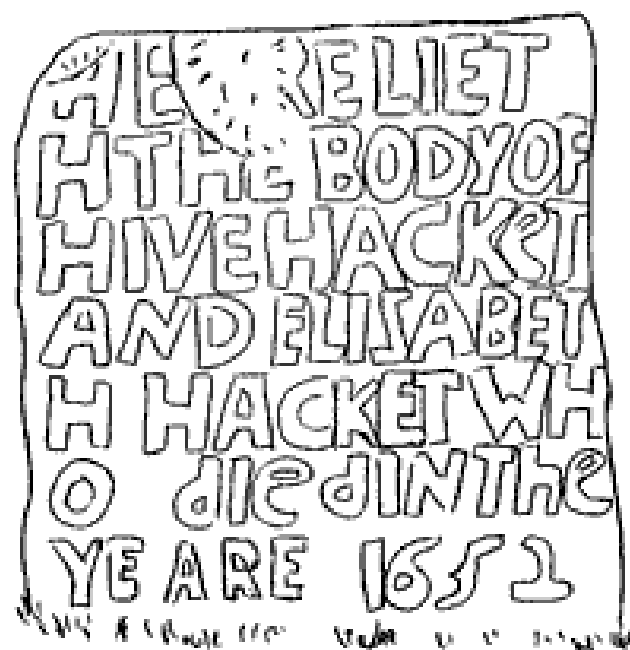
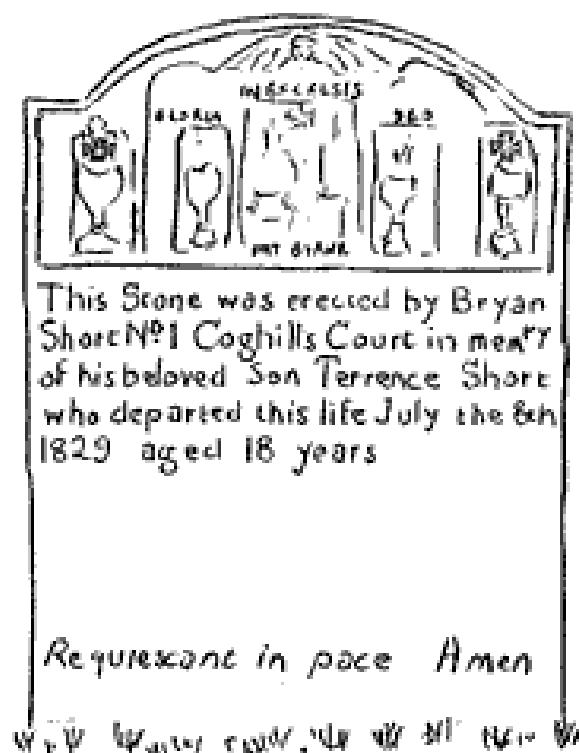
The great majority of those buried in Bully's Acre were too poor to afford memorials, and their graves are therefore unmarked. No burial registers have been traced for the graveyard, and almost certainly none were ever kept, so that it is not possible to determine exactly the numbers buried there. However, given that the burial registers of the 1½-acre St James's Graveyard contain about 30,000 entries for the period 1742-1836 (St James's Graveyard Project, 17), it is probable that the 3.7-acre Bully's Acre would have seen roughly two or three times as many burials in the same period, and more if the congestion of 1832 had occurred in earlier years. If approximately 60,000-90,000 or more burials took place in Bully's Acre in the period from the mid-eighteenth century until its closure in 1832, then many hundreds of thousands would have been buried there in the course of its centuries of use as a monastic and common burial ground. In order to calculate mortality rates in Dublin city before the establishment of Goldenbridge, Glasnevin and Mount Jerome cemeteries, it is vital that these estimates should be refined through further research, and sensitive archaeological investigations involving sample bone-fragment counts might be of assistance here.

A triangular piece of ground across the avenue to the south of Bully's Acre was originally the burial place for all Royal Hospital residents (Childers et al, 30), but at some stage its use was confined to deceased officers. There are now 67 tombstones in the Officers' Burial Ground, the earliest military one being that of Corporal William Proby dated 1700, and all the inscriptions are included in the present work. At a later stage a special burial place for privates and non-commissioned officers was established to the north of Bully's Acre, and graves were at first marked with iron tablets in shamrock form (*loc cit*). From about 1900 on the graves of privates and NCOs were marked by simple white marble headstones, approximately 200 of which remain. Many of these

stones are difficult to read or have been shattered by grass-cutting operations, and because of this, their late dates and considerations of space, their inscriptions are not included in the present work. However, there are tombstones commemorating soldiers killed during the 1916 Rising which are of special historical interest, and it is strongly recommended that steps should be taken to restore the Privates' Burial Ground and prevent further damage to stones.

The names, regiments and years of death of some 334 privates and NCOs buried in the Privates' Burial Ground between 1880-1905 are recorded on three brass plaques in the Royal Hospital chapel, and again these have been omitted as they would swell the present booklet to an impossibly large size. At a very late stage in research, two volumes of military burial registers relating to the Royal Hospital were discovered, one for non-commissioned or ordinary pensioners covering the years 1789-1833, and the other for all ranks, containing about 1,100 numbered entries covering the years 1849-1954. The last recorded burial in Kilmainham military graveyards is that of Etienne Walter Bishop, former infirmary sergeant, who died aged 86 and was buried on 5 June 1954. The Royal Hospital burial registers remain in the custody of the Office of Public Works, though they are in fact listed as having been deposited in the National Archives with the institution's minutes and other material, and it is hoped that the burial registers and any other outstanding records will soon be transferred there and made accessible to researchers.

The present booklet is the latest in a series which it is hoped will eventually include every graveyard in Dublin city. The urgency of the task in hand is shown by the fact that about one third of the approximately 30 disused old graveyards in the area between the canals have already been obliterated, and hundreds of tombstones have been removed from other graveyards or rendered illegible by being stacked in front of one another to facilitate the creation



Examples of tombstones in Kilmainham graveyards
(SHORT 1829 and HACKET 1652)

of lawn parks. Hopefully, publications such as the present will help to persuade the relevant authorities to treat the irreplaceable heritage found in our graveyards with greater sensitivity, and to repair as far as possible damage already caused.

In conclusion, thanks are due to my wife Margaret for help with the work of recording inscriptions in Kilmainham graveyards, and also to staff in the Department of the Taoiseach, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, National Archives and Inchicore Public Library, Fr Vincent Denny of the Oblate Fathers Retreat House, Inchicore, and Thaddeus Breen, for their assistance or advice on various points. Finally, acknowledgment is made to the Office of Public Works for permission to publish the memorial inscriptions and refer to burial registers, and to the National Library of Ireland for permission to reproduce a section of Rocque's map from Historic Dublin maps.

SEAN MURPHY

BULLY'S ACRE INSCRIPTIONS

(Numbers refer to map pages 24-25)

BROWN 63

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in [Excelsis Deo]. Memento Mori. This stone and burial place belongeth to Robert Brown, mohair throster & twister, of the city Dublin (sic), for him and his posterity. Here lieth 6 of his children 1784.

BYRNE 22

IHS with heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by John Byrne of the city of Dublin in memory of his dear beloved wife Christian Byrne who departed this life the 11th of January 1780 aged 49 years. Here lieth the remains of their daughter Catherine who departed this life the 29th of July 1803 aged 24 years. And four more children who died young. Here lyeth the remains of the above John Byrne who departed this life Aug the 14th 1812 aged 74 years. RIP. [Top of stone broken off, in fragments on ground.]

BYRNE 38

IHS with cross. This stone and burial place belongs (sic) to Thos Byrne of Thom[a]s Street. Erected May the 1st 1782 in memory of six of his children.

BYRNE 11

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by Margaret Byrne [in memory of] her beloved husband Mr Patrick Byrne of Skinners Alley, silk manufacturer, who departed this life the 28th of July 1807 aged 40 years. Here also lieth the remains of seven of their children who died young. [Broken in two, leaning against tree.]

BYRNE 10

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Mrs Esther Byrne in memory of her beloved husband Mr Lawrence Byrne, brogue maker,

late of New Row, Thomas Street, in the city of Dublin, who departed this life the 2nd of April 1816 aged 55 years.

Beneath this mouldering turf is laid

An honest man and orphans' aid.

Here also lieth her mother Mrs Catherine LAWLER and her brother Murtha Lawler and her sister Elizabeth Lawler, also several of her posterity. May their souls rest in peace, Amen. [Wilson's Dublin Directory 1815-19 contains an entry for Laurence Byrne, shoe-maker, 43 West New Row.]

BYRNE - see MURPHY

BYRNE - see SHORT

CAFFERY 19

This stone was erected by Mathew Caffery of Polebe[g] Street in memory of his 3 children who died young. AD 1792.

CANTRELL 28

This stone was erected by Peter Cantrell of the city of Dublin in memory of his beloved parents AD 1803. Here lyeth his mother Mary Cantrell who depard this life 10th of Novr 1803 aged 56 years. Also his father John Cantrell who depard this life the 15 of Jany 1804 aged 77 years. [Printed in JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 82.]

CARROLL 47

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone and burial ground belongeth to James Carroll of City Row and his posterity. Here lieth the body of his wife Margaret Carroll who departed this life August the 17th 1814 aged 62 years.

CLARK 42

IHS. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone [was erected] by M[r George? Cla]rk of ... Poddle [in memory of his beloved] wife [Sara?] Ann Clar[k] who departed thi[s] life [March? 18th? 18?2] aged ?4 years. Here lieth the re[main]s of three of their children. First Th[omas?] Clark died May 12th 1809 aged nine months, second Thomas (sic) Clark died Jan... 12th 1810

aged eleven months [and?] James Clark died ... [181?]3
aged six months. Here also lieth the remains of her
[mot?]her Hannah TAYLOR who departed this life August
26th 1813 aged 64? years. [Surface flaking very badly.]

COLLINS 26

IHS with cross and heart. Here lieth the body of Thomas
Collins of Back Lane, Gentlen, who departed this life
the 14th March 1787 aged 23 years. And also the body of
his mother Mary Collins who departed this life the 13th
December 1787 aged 61 years. And also the body of Thomas
his father who died in January 1792 aged 62 years. [The
Index to prerogative wills contains an entry for Thomas
Collins, gent, 1790.]

CONNOLLY 44

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori.
This stone was erected by Mr Charles Connolly of Phibbs-
borough in the county of Dublin in memory of his two sons,
Patrick who departed this life May 15th 1795 aged 25
years, and Edward departed this life May 30th 1795 aged
22 years.

CONNOR 21

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This
stone was erected by Bryan Conno[r] in memory of his
belo[ve]d daughter Mary Connor who departed this life
January the 4th 1816 aged 14 years. [Surface flaking.
Wilson's Dublin Directory 1816 contains an entry for
Brien Connor, baker, 78 Francis Street.]

CRAWLEY 69

IHS with cross. This stone was erected by Tho Crawley in
memo[ry] of his wife Rose Cr (sic) who dep this life June
the 1? 1799? aged ... [Inscribed on base, which seems to
be of a different type of stone and could be part of a
separate memorial:] ... and her son John. [Broken in
four pieces.]

CRAWLEY 43

[This s]tone was erecte[d by Se]rjt Ml Crawley o[f the]
59th Regt in memory [o]f his dear son Thos, died 6th
Octr 1811 aged 3 years. Also his daughter Brigid died

18th Decemr ... [Fragment, now located in front of CONNOLLY 44.]

CREAIGHTON 33

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Elizabeth Creaighton of Charles Street in the city of Dublin in memory of her beloved husband Patrick Creaighton who departed this life May 18th 1804 aged 45 years. Also two of his children who died young. Also the remains of the above's beloved wife Elizabeth Creaighton who died on the 4th January 1818 aged 59 years. May their souls rest in peace Amen. [Decorated with angels.]

CROSBIE 55

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Michael Crosbie in memory of his beloved father who departed this life 16th Sept 1818 aged 56 years. Also Mary Crosbie, sister to Michael Crosbie, who deptsd this life 4 May 1826 aged 23 years. Requiescant in Pace. [Parts of inscription now illegible due to surface flaking, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 81.]

DIGNAM 37

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by Catne Dignam in memory of her husband John Dignam who departed this life May 28th 1824 aged 33. Also 4 of their children who died young. He was a loving husband, a tender father and sincere friend. [Wilson's Dublin Directory 1824 contains an entry for John Dignam, baker, 41 Cook Street, which continues until 1826.]

DOLAN 16

IHS with cross. This stone and burial place belongeth to De[nn]is Dolan of the city of Dublin. Here lyeth also five of his childr[en] ...dy, Pat, Ann?, Den[ni]s, Thomas ... [17?]77.

DONNELLY -

[The famous prize-fighter Dan Donnelly, who died in 1820 aged 50, was buried in Bully's Acre. JAPMDI, 9, 1913,

83, states that an altar-tomb was erected to his memory with an inscription describing his career and successes in the ring. This source also records that the tomb was said to have been located in the north-east corner of the burial ground and to have been destroyed one night by some guardsmen on duty at Kilmainham. However, the Dublin Penny Journal, 1, 1832-3, 68-9, claims that Donnelly was interred 'in Murchadh's grave', that is, at or near the cross-shaft in the south-east sector of the graveyard.]

DOUGHERTY - see NOWLAN

DUFFY 71

Cross. [Memento Mori.] Here lieth the b[ody o]f Miss Jane Duffy w[ho de]partd [th]is life on the 30th of Apri[1] ... 1832 aged ... [yea]rs. [Surface flaking badly.]

DUNN - see ROONEY

ELLIS 25

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Mary Ellis in memory of her beloved husband Thomas Ellis who departed this life June the 14th 1811 aged 48 years. Also two of her children who died young, William and Mary. RIP Amen.

EMMET -

[Following his execution on 20 September 1803, the headless body of the rebel Robert Emmet was buried in Bully's Acre. The gaoler of Kilmainham, George Dunn, recalled in later years that Emmet was buried beside the grave of one his executed followers, Felix ROURKE, 'near the right-hand corner of the burying-ground, next the avenue of the Royal Hospital, close to the wall, and at no great distance from the former entrance, which is now built up', and that soon after interment the remains were 'removed with great privacy and buried in Dublin' (Madden, 3, 472-3). The location of the final resting place of Emmet's remains is one of the great unsolved mysteries of Irish history, and among the graveyards where it is claimed he is buried

are St Michan's, Glasnevin, St Paul's and St Peter's, the latter being the site of the Emmet family vault but now alas completely obliterated. For the names of other executed rebels, possibly also buried in Bully's Acre with Emmet and Rourke, see Murphy ed, 16-17.]

ENNIS 49

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erectd by Esther Ennis in memory of he[r] her (sic) husband Morris Enni[s who] dep[td] this life Janury 17 [1878?] aged 31 years. And also [his d]aughter Eleanor who [departed] this life the 28th of ... 1818 aged 20 years. [Decorated with angels' heads; possibly more of inscription buried.]

FLANAGAN 36

IHS with heart and cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Joseph Flanagan of Thomas Street, starch manufacturer, in memory of his father and mother, brothers and sisters, and 4 of his children who died young. RIP Amen. [No date.]

FOY 31

This burial place belongs to Edwd Foy of the city [of] Dublin. Here lies his child Bridget Foy aged ... years, died August ... [No date legible.]

GERRATY 15

Cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Erected by Anne Gerraty of the Gd Canal Harbour in memory of her beloved son Peter Gerraty who departed this life 10th July 1829 aged 38 years.

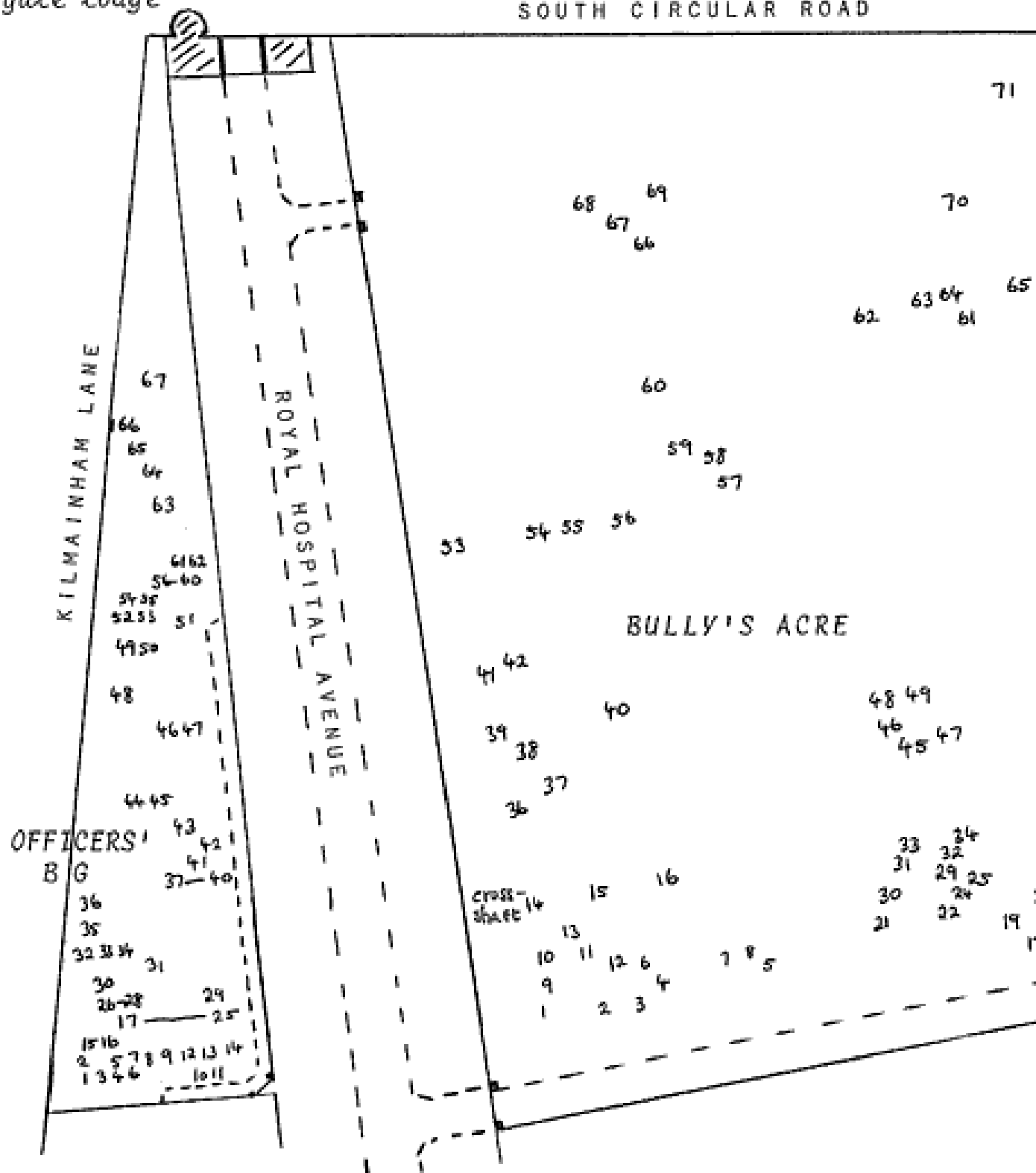
GILHULY 18

IHS with cross and heart. This stone and burial place belongeth to Owen Gilhuly of Back Lane in the city of Dublin. Here lieth the body of John Gilhuly son of the above who departed this life the 29th Septr 1785 aged 23 years. Here also lieth his grandmother Eleanor SWEENY who departed this life the 18th Decr 1788 aged 77 years and 8 of his children.

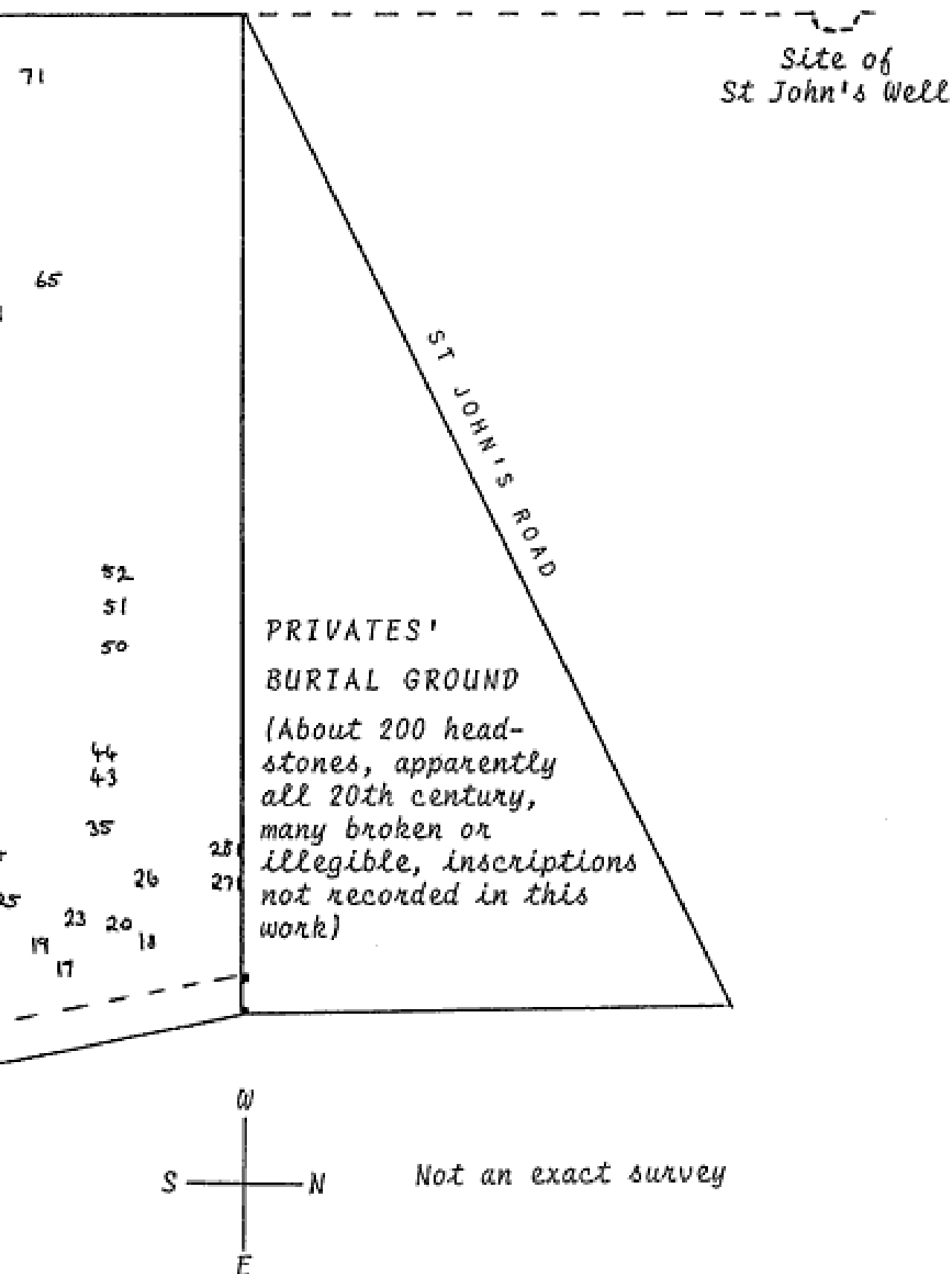
Tower and
gate lodge

BULLY'S ACRE AND ROYAL HOSPITAL

SOUTH CIRCULAR ROAD



HOSPITAL KILMAINHAM GRAVEYARDS



GORDEN 35

Here lieth the body of George Gorden who depard this life Decr 23d 1776 aged 65 and two of his [grand?]-children George & James Gorden. Here also lieth the body of James Gorden, son of the above, who departed [thi]s life the 1st of July 1793 aged 37 years.
[Printed in JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 82.]

GREEN 41

IHS with cross. This stone was erected by Mrs Mary Green to the memory of her beloved husband Mr William Green late of Anglesea Street, bookseller, who departed this life Sepr 21st 1808 aged 579 years.

HARRINGTON 3

IHS with cross and heart. Here lyeth the body of James Harrington of Boe Bridge who departed this life the 22 Febr 1786 aged 39 years. Also here lyeth 5 of his children. May the Lord have mercy on their souls Amen. This is erected by his disconsolate widow Ann Harrington.

HARRINGTON 29

IHS with cross. Sacred to the memory of Mr Henry Harrington who departed this life Decr 26th 1800? Here also lyeth three of his children. This stone was erected by his loving wife to the memory of a beloved and lamented husband aged 30? years. [Wilson's Dublin Directory 1800 contains an entry for Henry Harrington, butcher, Patrick Street, and the Index to Dublin grant books and wills lists a Henry Harrington, victualler, Patrick Street, 1805, intestate.]

HAYES 34

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by Michl Hayes of Rainsford Street, cotton manufacturer, in memory of his beloved wife Judith Hayes who departed this life the 19th of Novembr 1[7]97 aged 62 years, and six of his children. Also his brother Morris Hayes, likewise Catherine Hayes his daughter-in-law who departed this life [the] 22nd of August 1797 aged 35 years, and two of [her] children.

HEFFERNAN 30

IHS with cross. Memento Mori. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Here lieth the body o[f] Thomas Heffernan wh[o] died on the 1st of Marc[h 17]95 aged 1 year. Also the body of John H[effe]rnan who died 19 Decem[be]r 1798 aged 6 months. [Also the] body of John H[effe]rnan [who died] the 26th Septe[mber] 1803 aged 46 years ... [Remainder of inscription buried.]

HOGAN 62

IHS with cross. This stone was erected by Thomas Hogan in memory of his belovd father Martin Hogan who departed this life the 11th July 1805 aged 55 years. Lord have mercy on his soul Amen. [Printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 53.]

JACKSON 68

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Ann Jackson of Exchequer Street in the city of Dublin in memory of her beloved husband William Jackson who depatd this life 8th of August 1812 aged 33 years. And also 8th (sic) of his children who died in their infancy.

People all as you pass by

As you are now so once was I

As I am now so you shall be

Prepare for death and follow me.

[Decorated with two birds and two angels' faces; printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 53.]

JOLLY 27

IHS with cross. This stone was erected by Mary Jolly in memory of her son John Jolly who departed this life January the 1st 1810 aged 25 years. Also her husband John Jolly who departed this life Octr 12th 1812 aged 75 years. Also the body of Mary Jolly who ered this stone in memory of her lovg son and affte husband, she died [Inscription not completed.]

KANE 54

IHS with cross. Mrs My Kane died Jany 8th 1804 aged 54 years. [Most of inscription now illegible, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 81.]

KEENA 66

Cross. Pray for the sould of Micheal (sic) Keena departed this life April 14 1815 agd 37 years. Also five of his children who died yo. This stone is erected by his beloved wife Sisilia Keena.

KENNAN 6

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Richard Kennan of Winetavern Street in the city of Dublin, currier, in memory of his sisters Catherine and Mary Kennan. Also his uncle and aunt James and Margaret SMYTH. Here lie the remains of Catherine Smyth died November 26th 1799. [The firm of Kennan & Sons still trades in Fishamble Street, which is close to Winetavern Street.]

LAPEN 40

IHS. Here lieth the body of Owen Lapen who departed this life August the 6 1813 aged 57 years.

LAWLER - see BYRNE 10

LEONARD - see ROONEY

MCDERMOTT 2

IHS. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Honor McDermott of Bridgefoot Street in memory of her beloved husband Bartholomew McDermott who departed this life April the 5th 1815 aged 56 years. Also her two sons, John McDermott who departed this life May the 4th 18[1?]4 aged 19 years, Patrick McDermott who departed this life February the 4th 1819 aged 26 years, and five of her children who died young. Here also lieth the above named Mrs Honor McDermott who departed this life April the 5th 1826 aged 64 years. RIP Amen. [Decorated.]

MCNAMEE 51

Cross. Here lie the remains of Thos McNamee late of Britan St who departed this life the 16th of Octr 1827 aged 47 years. Also 4 of his children who died young.

MALONE 50

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Here lies the body of Mr Thomas Malone who departed this life December 17th 1818 aged 55? years.

MULLEN 48

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Mrs Sarah Mullen of Thomas Street in the city of Dublin in memory of her beloved husband Mr Tho Mullen, publican, who departed this life the 15th of August 1800 aged 40 years. Here also lieth six of their children who died young.

Weep not for I am happy
Not lost but gone before.

MULLIGAN 24

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by James Mulligan [of] St James Street in the city of Dublin, shoemaker, in memory of his beloved wife Jane Mulligan who departed this life the 16th of July 1798 aged 36 years. Here lieth the remains of his father and mother Timothy and Bridget Mulligan, also eight of his children who died young. RIP.

MURPHY 53

Here lieth the body of James Murphy who departed this life December the 30th 1779 aged 80 years. And Mary Murphy his wife who departed this life May the 1st 1774 aged 60 years. Here also lieth the body of John BYRNE who departed this life April the 28th 1782 aged 82 years.

NEVIN 23

Memento [Mori. IHS.] This stone [was erected by? ...] Ann Nevin in m[emory of her] husband Mr Ja[mes Nevin?] ... manufacturer, lat[e] ... who departed ... 1802 aged 47 ... [Fragment of stone only. Wilson's Dublin Directory 1802 contains an entry for James Nevin, cotton manufacturer, 32 Rainsford Street, which continues until 1815 when it is replaced by an entry for Ann Nevin, with the same trade and address.]

NOWLAN 17

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Mrs Anne Nowlan of Spital

Fields in memory of her beloved husband Mr Thos Nowlan who departed this life 20th Nov 1807 aged 53 years. Also eleven of their children and four of their grandchildren who died young. Also their beloved daughter Mary DOUGHERTY who died 24th April 1821 aged 31 years.

NUGENT 59

IHS with cross and heart. Here lieth the body of Mary Nugent who departed this life the 16th day of January 1798 aged 81 years.

O'NEILL 13

IHS with cross. This stone was erected by Con O'Neill in memory of his brother Phelix O'Neill who departed this life Octr the 8th 1764 aged 36 years. [Parts of inscription now illegible, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 81.]

READ 5

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by George Read of Thomas Court in memory of his beloved son James Read who departed this life June the 18th 1795 aged six years, and six more of his children who died young. Here lieth the body of Mary Read, mother to the above George Read, who departed this life June the 25th 1795 aged 66 years. Here also lieth the body of Esther Read SPRING who departed this life Decr the 16th 1807 aged 21 years. Likewise the body of Mary Read, wife to the above George Read, who departed this life Feby the 26th 1809 aged 56 years. RIP Amen. [Inscription on back of stone:] Here lieth the remains of Mr George Read, husband of the within Mary Read, who departed this life the 16th of November 1811 aged 56 years.

REILLY 12

IHS with cross. Heare lyeth the body of James Reilly who depd this life Nor ye 19th 1785 adg 80. [Parts of inscription now illegible, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 81.]

RIELLY 1

IHS with cross and heart. Here lieth the body of Mr Phillip Rielly of Pill Lane, starch manufacturer, who

d[ep]arted this life Apr 23rd 1786 aged 33 years. Also his father, mother and thier (sic) grandchildren. Erected by Mrs Mary Rielly wife of the above Phillip.

ROONEY 67

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. this stone was erected by Richard Rooney of Cattle Market, city of Dublin, for him and his posterity August 30th 1800. Here lieth the remains of his father-in-law James LEONARD. Also the remains of Mary DUNN mother-in-law to James Leonard. With seven of the above Richard Rooneys children which (sic) have died in their infancy.

ROURKE 61

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Memento Mori. This stone was erected by Mrs Margery Rourke of Thomas Court, Dublin, in memory of her daughter Mary Rourke who died the 25th of July 1800 aged 19 years. And her husband Mr Nicholas Rourke who died the 1st of May 1807 aged 60 years. And their son James Rourke who died the 1st of September 1807 aged 21 years. Here also lieth the remains of the above Mrs Margery Rourke who died the 28th of April 1815 aged 56 years.

ROURKE 57

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone and burial place belongeth to Mr John Rourke of Ushers Court, Dublin, and his posterity. Here lyeth his belove[d] wife Lucy Rourke who departed this life the 28 of March 1803 in the 36th year of her age. Here also lyeth 7 of his children. [Decorated; top broken and resting in place.]

ROURKE - see EMMET

SHORT 4

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by Bryan Short, no 1 Coghills Court, in memry of his beloved son Terrence Short who departed this life July the 8th 1829 aged 18 years. RIP Amen. [Impressively decorated with chalices and other devices, 'Pat BYRNE' inscribed at base of decoration.]

SMYTH - see KENNAN

SOUTHWELL 9

IHS with cross. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. This stone was erected by Mr James Southwell in memory of his beloved wife Mary Anne Southwell who departed this life 8th Jan 1827 aged 23 years. [The Index to Dublin grant books and wills contains a marriage licence entry for James Southwell and Mary Anne SULLIVAN 1817. Wilson's Dublin Directory 1827 lists James Southwell as a piano-forte maker with an address at 23 Stafford Street, and there is also an entry for John Southwell, piano-forte maker and music seller, 65 Exchequer Street.]

SPRING - see READ

SULLIVAN - see SOUTHWELL

SWEENEY - see GILHULY

TAYLOR - see CLARK

WALKER 39

IHS with cross and heart. Gloria in Excelsis Deo. Erected by Anne Walker in memory of her beloved husband Henry Walker who departed this life the 11th of May 1823 aged 40 years. RIP Amen. [Decorated with two chalices.]

UNKNOWN

[The following stones are lying face down so that the inscriptions cannot be read at present: 52, 56. The following stones have no legible inscriptions or are uninscribed: 7, 8, 20, 45, 46, 58, 60, 64, 65, 70. Finally, the surface of no 32 is flaking badly and only the following words are legible: ...ry Anne Terressa ... who departed th[is life t]he 24th day of Augu[st] ... aged 19 years ...]

CROSS-SHAFT 14

[JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 80, notes the tradition that the granite Celtic cross-shaft in the south-east of the burial ground marks the burial place of Murrough, son of Brian Boru, who fell in battle against the Danes at Clontarf in 1014 (see also introduction).]



Bully's Acre, Kilmainham
(with ancient cross-shaft)

OFFICERS' BURIAL GROUND INSCRIPTIONS

(Numbers refer to map pages 24-25)

ABERCROMBY 51

This tomb was erected by Mrs Abercromby in memory of her beloved husband Capn Willm Abercromby, late in the Royal Irish Invalids, who departed this life the 19th of Feby 1802 aged 67 years. [Raised horizontal slab.]

BANKS 1

In memory of Adeline Sabine Banks, darling child of Langrishe Fyers and Anne Sabine Banks, died 10th Jan 1868 aged 20 months. [Prayers.]

BISHOP 36

In loving memory of Bridget Bishop died on 1st March 1934. Also of her daughter Mary Frances died on 29th May 1933 aged 28 years. RIP. Harrison, Pearse St.

BLACKBURNE 64

To the glory of God and the beloved memory of Lt Col Charles Blackburne DSO, 5th Dragoon Guards, born 20th May 1876, and of Charles Bertram (Peter) his son, born 3rd Sep 1911, who are both buried here. Also of Beatrice Audrey his daughter, born 24th June 1907. All of whom lost their lives in the sinking of HMS Leinster by a German submarine 10th Oct 191[8].

[Decorated celtic cross and enclosure. 501 of the 771 passengers on board the Leinster perished, a majority of them British servicemen, many of whom are buried in Grangegorman Military Cemetery (Staunton, Irish Times, 10 October 1988, 9).]

BOILEAU 22

Sacred to the memory of Anne, widow of the late I S B P Boileau, Lieut 14th? Regt, who died Oct 23rd 18?4 aged 50? years having ... of this institution. 'Thy will be done'.

BOWLES 63

In memory of Henry Rich Bowles Esqr who entered into his rest on the 6th of March 1845 aged 62 years. And also of his wife Louisa Caroline Anne who fell asleep in Jesus on the 18th of Decr 1846 aged 68 years. [Tribute/prayer.] Also their daughter Elizabeth Bowles died 6th June 1902. [Slightly raised horizontal slab.]

BROADBENT 48

'Life how short; eternity how long'. Here lieth the body of Timothy Broadbent, late hospital sergeant 84th Regiment, who departed this life the 7th day of August 1824 aged 46 years. This stone was erected by his disconsolate widow Catherine Broadbent as a token of respect for his exemplary conduct to her as a husband for the period of 28 years.

BUCHANAN 41

Here lieth the body of Leiut (sic) David Buchanan who dyed the 13 day of Novemr 1720 in ye 85 year of his age and livd 13 years ... [mo]nths in ye Royal Hospi ... [Large headstone with coat of arms at top. Inscription now illegible, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 80, which also reproduces the coat of arms.]

BURGES 2

Sacred to the memory of Samuel Burges Esq, late a capt of the Royal Hospital and formerly of the 60th Rifles, who died 13th March 1843 aged 72 years. And Ellen his wife who died 8th Oct 1855 aged 51 years. Also six infant children. This stone is erected by their only son in memory of his beloved parents. [Headstone and body stone.]

CARTE 8

In loving memory of William Carte, staff surgeon, JP, FRCSI, physician and surgeon to the Royal Hospital for 41 years, died 24th April 1899 aged 69 years. He served in 28th Regiment during Crimean War, medal, 2 clasps, Turkish medal, subsequently in 4th Light Dragoons. Also in memory of Mary his first wife, died 28th January 1859, and following children: Thomas died

April 1859 aged 3 months. Ellen died 29th June 1865 aged 9 years. William Alexander, surgeon major, died 26th April 1900 aged 42, buried at sea. Children of 2nd wife: Ellen Alexandra died 6th January 1873 aged 5 months. Sydney George died 13th September 1892 aged 26. Francis Lindesay, surgeon captain, served in Egypt and India and Chin Lushai Expedition 1889-1890, medal and clasp, died at Allahabad 2nd April 1894 aged 31 years. Also in memory of Annie, second wife of the above named William Carte, who died 6th Aug 1913. 'Thy will be done.' [Railed enclosure. There is also a brass plaque to William Carte in the Royal Hospital chapel, which adds that he served in the Eastern Campaign 1854-5 with the 58th Regiment and subsequently in the 4th Light Dragoons, and that he received Crimean Medal with clasps for Inkerman and Sevastopol, also Turkish and Sardinian medals.]

CHADWICK 9

Sacred to the memory of Jane, the beloved wife of Captain John Chadwick, who died 22nd January 1862? aged 45 years.

CHAPMAN 56

This stone is ... Chapman to the ... who departed this li[fe] in the 78 year of her [age]. Here lieth the body of John Ch[apman], husband to the above Rebecca Chapm[an], master of works to the Royal Hospital, which place he and his father held upwards of 60 years. He departed this life the 7th of Decr 1795 in the 50 year of his age. [Top right-hand section broken off.]

COOK 17

To the memory of Robert Cook, late of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham and formerly of the 29th Foot and Royal Newfoundland Fencibles, who died the 8th June 1851 aged 82 years, sixty-three of which were spent in the royal servie at sea and on land. Also of Mrs Mary NICHOLSON, mother-in-law of the above, obit 17th March 1839 aged 74 years. And of John Bryson Cook his son who departed this life 27th July 1847 aged 32 years. [Horizontal slab.]

DALRYMPLE 25

Sacred to the memory of Edith, wife of Col Dalrymple, Dep Adjut-General, who died 17th Octr 1889. 'Until the day break and the shadows flee away.' [Cross and low enclosure.]

DALY 11

This stone was erected by Mrs Mary KIMBERLY in memory of her mother Margaret Daly who departed this life the 15th of June 1774 aged 62 years.

DARCY 55

This tablet is erected by the youngest surviving child, Charlotte Darcy, to the memory of her beloved parents Ellen Darcy, who died the 18th March 1834, and Captain Edward Darcy, R H, late of 43rd Light Infantry, who departed this life 25th December 1848. Also are deposited here the mortal remains of her sisters Anne and Ellen and her brother Samuel, all of whom died before their parents. Also Charlotte Darcy, daughter of the above, who died on the 7th December 1866. [Raised horizontal slab.]

DAWBNEY 27

Matilda Martha Dawbney departed this life 8th Feb 1876 aged 20 years.

DRESING 15

Sacred to the memory of Charles Dresing Esqr of the Royal Hospital and of the late 10th R V? Batln, who died on the 31st May 1837 aged 61 years. Also Elizabeth his wife who fell asleep in Jesus on the 12th December 1862 aged 82. Jane Dresing daughter died 21st Decr 1863 aged 57 years. 'She walked with God.' [Horizontal slab broken in four fragments.]

ELWOOD - see VESEY

EVANS 49

Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Captain thomas Evans who died the 1st of Sept 1813 aged 94. As also of Mrs Jane Evans his wife who died Novr 1801 aged 78. [Horizontal slab partly covered by turf.]

FARMER 14

In loving memory of Major John Farmer, who served in the 4th (Queen's Own) Hussars (ten years as adjutant) from September 1858 until December 1886 when he was appointed adjutant at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, which post he held till the day of his death. He departed this life October 4th 1891 aged 51 years. Erected by his sorrowing widow. [Tribute mentioning deceased's virtues as a husband, father, friend and soldier. Prayer.] J Wade, Berkeley St, Dublin.

GIBBONS 19

In memory of Capt Thomas Gibbons of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham who died in that institution on the 17th June 1862 aged 82. Master-in-residence there for 20 years, having served for the lengthened period of 64 years. Of Lieutenant Thomas Ponsonby Gibbons ... aged 27 years. Of Lieutenant William Alfred STEWARD of the ... grandson of the above. Captain Thomas Gibbons who died at ...eerabad ... 1861 aged 26 years, erected by his widow ... [Granite body stone.]

GILBORNE 67

Sacred to the memory of Captain Edward Gilborne, formerly of the 71st Regt and for 18 years a captain of the Royal Hospital, who died 14th of May 1855 aged 62 y[ears]. Also of his youngest child Isabella who died 28th March 1844 aged 6 y[ears]. And also to his wife Ellen who died 3rd July 1873 aged 79 years. [Decorated cross and low railed enclosure.]

GOODWIN 53

Here lyeth the body of John Goodwin Esqr who departed this life the 2nd day of February 1750 aged 50 years. [Horizontal slab. Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 79.]

GOWDY 44

In loving memory of Mrs JOHNSTON, daughter of Mr & Mrs A & M Gowdy, Royal Hospital, who died 18th Sep 1918. Also Mrs NEVILLE their youngest daughter who died 12th Nov 1916, interred in Mitchin? Cemetery,

London. Also the above Alexander Gowdy, foreman of works Royal Hospital 1886 to 1921, who died at Dornock, Dumfriesshire, on the 14th August 1922 aged 72 years, interred in Dornock Cemetery. Also Margaret his widow who died in Belfast 24th March 1940 aged 86 years, interred in Loanends Churchyard.

HACKET 30

Here lieth the body of Hive [Hugh?] Hacket and Elizabeth Hacket who died in the yeare 1652.

[Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 79, which located the stone near GOODWIN 53. The stone, which is upright and with a very roughly cut inscription, has obviously since been moved to its present location some distance away.]

HARRIS 7

Beneath this stone rest the remains of Robert Russell Harris, late of the 23rd? Royal Irish Fusiliers and 97th ... Regiment, colonel in the army and for 29 years staff officer of the pensioners in Dublin District, died 6? January 1874 aged 71 years ... [Tribute?] And Florence the much loved child of the above, died 2nd July 1861? aged 4 years. Also Cecilia Marion her dearly beloved sister, died 3rd April 1862 in her 13th year. Also to the memory of Sabina, the beloved wife and mother of the above, who departed this life 24th September 1878 aged 56 years. 'Thy will be done.' Harrison, Dublin. [The Calendar of wills and administrations in the National Archives gives Robert Russell Harris's date of death as 4 January 1874.]

HARE 23

Sacred to the memory of the Rev George Ha[re], chaplain for 32 years to the Royal Hospital, died 21 May 1882 aged 82 years. [Low railed enclosure. Thom's Dublin Directory 1882 lists Rev George Hare as chaplain to the Royal Hospital, while the Calendar of wills and administrations confirms that he died on 21 May 1882.]

HAWLY 61?

Here lyeth Major Vernon Hawly who departed this life ye 22 of June 1749. [Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 53, which describes the stone as small and upright and near MUSSON 60; number 61 may be the stone in question, but it no longer has a legible inscription.]

HAY 18

Sacred to the memory of Captain James Hay, providore, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, died 2nd July 1854 aged 79 years. He served in the West Indies under Abercrombie and in the Peninsula under Wellington as adjutant of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, with which corps he was engaged in several sieges and battles, for which? he bore a medal with eleven clasps? Erected by his widow in testimony of his great worth as a husband, father, friend. [Headstone with granite body stone.]

HOW 38

Here lyeth the body of Capt Luke How, late of the Royal Hospital, who departed this life ye 16th March 1772? aged 68 years.

JOHNSTON - see GOWDY

JONES 39

This stone belongeth to Captain Jones of the Royal Hospital. Here lieth the body of his daughter Miss Jane Jones who departed this life Augst 3rd 1778 aged 26 years.

JUDD 66

This stone was placed here by Susanah Judd in memory of her beloved husband John Judd, late private of the 82nd Regt, who died the 24th of December 1847 aged 56 years. [Beside wall and behind a small tree.]

KIMBERLEY - see DALY

LANGELEY 32

In loving memory of Margaret Jane, wife of William Langeley, house steward to Field Marshall Lord

ROBERTS VC KP, died 18th Dec 1897 aged 34. A good woman, a loving wife and a devoted mother. L F Harrison, 29 Gt Brunswick St. [Cross with low granite enclosure.]

MCELHAYER 28

In loving remembrance of Robert, eldest son of Philip and Mary McElhayer, who died 29th Jan 1881 aged 18 years. [Prayer. Decorated initials 'R M' at top of stone.]

MCGILL 13

In loving memory of Captain William Strickland McGill, late 79th Cameron Highlanders, with which regiment he served throughout the campaigns of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny. He died on the 2nd November 1886 at the Royal Hospital Dublin where for 18 years he held the appointment of adjutant. [Prayer. Cross with low granite enclosure.]

MACLEAN 47

Sacred to the memory of Hector MacLean, late adjutant and surveyor of works of the Royal Hospital, who finished his mortal course June the third 1830 in the 79th year of his age. [Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 53.]

MAGEE 54

This stone was erected b[y] Patrick Magee in memory of his beloved wife Jean Magee who died 16th May 1819 aged 48 years. Here also lieth the remains of the above Patk M[agee] who depd this [life] Feb[r]uary the 26th ... [aged 72? [years]]. [Parts of inscription flaking. The Index to Dublin grant books and wills contains a will entry for Patrick Magee, Irvine Street, pensioner, 1829.]

MOORE 34

In loving memory of James Horatio (Jimmy), dearly beloved son of SS Major & Mrs Moore ASC, drowned at Merrion 24 June 1912 aged 2½ years. [Prayer. Cross with low granite enclosure.]

MORGAN - see TOLNIE

MUSSON 60

This stone was erected by Geo Musson, chamberlaine, to the memory of his belovd wife Hannah Musson who departed this life May the 13th 1809 aged 53 years. [Six lines of verse tribute.] Also three of their children: George Musson died March the 13th 1791 aged 12 months. Hannah Musson died April the 12th 1800 aged 8 years. Charlotte Musson died June the 8th 1794 aged 9 months. Also George Musson died on the 29th of July 1813 aged 22 years. Also Maryann Musson who departed this life on the 6th of August 1816 aged 21 years. Also Elizabeth Musson who departed this life on the 27th April 1820 aged 21 years. They three lived and died in the fear of God and beloved by all that knew them. [Horizontal slab. Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 52. Watson's Gentleman's and Citizen's Almanack, 1809, lists George Musson as butler, fueler and chamberlain of the Royal Hospital.]

NEVILLE - see GOWDY

NICHOLSON 21

In memory of Huntley Nicholson, late captain 1st Royal Regiment and Royal Hospital. He served in the Peninsular and 1st Burmese War, for which he obtained 2 medals. He died the 18th Nov 1870 aged 77 years. Job xix 25. Rev xiv 15. [Railed enclosure.]

NICHOLSON - see COOK

O'CALLAGHAN 24

To the memory of Major P L O'Callaghan, late of 13th P A L I and of Royal Kilmainham Hospital, died 3rd Decr 1882. RIP. Coates, Dublin. [Cross.]

O'REGAN 33

In loving memory of Dora who departed this life 14th Aug 1899, daughter of the late hospital sergt James O'Regan, 18th Royal Irish Regt. On whose soul sweet Jesus have mercy. Erected by her fond mother Margaret O'Regan, died 14th Oct 1917 aged 86. Louis Harrison, Dublin.

ORMSBY 20

To the memory of Augustus Howard Orms[by], captain, late of the 13 or Royal Reg[iment] and ... died 30th May? 1863 aged 63 years. ... [Railed enclosure. Remainder of inscription illegible, possibly prayers.]

PAGE 29

Reginald Jack Page died 1 March 1907 aged 8 years. [Cross and low enclosure.]

PENDERY 12

Sacred to the memory of Mary Anne, the dearly beloved wife of J Pendery Esqr, South Stafford Regt (80th), and daughter of Capt J WATSON, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, who died 6th Feb 1885 aged 27 years. [Prayers.] Also in loving memory of Captain James Watson, father of the above. He fell asleep 30th December 1891. Captain Watson served [in the 50th? or?] Queen's Own Regiment ... Campaign ... Crimean War ... 24 years quarter master of the Royal Hospital. 'Weep not for me'. Also in loving memory of Margaret, wife of the above, died 16th? July 1903? 'Thy will be done'. Harrison, Dublin. [Low granite enclosure.]

PORTER 57

This stone was erected by James Porter, sergeant of the 5th Regt of Foot, in memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth Porter who departed this life the 4th of May 1803 in the 98th year of her age. Here also lieth the remains of the above James Porter who departed this life on the 4th day of February 1810 in the 88th year of his age.

PROBY 10

Here lieth the body of Corporall William Proby who died the 28th of July 1700. [Proby was stated to have been a veteran of the Williamite Wars (Burton, 197-8).]

RENNY 58

Sacred to the memory of Mrs Renny, the beloved wife of Dr Renny, who departed this life on the 7th of January 1828 aged 58 years. Also here are deposited

the remains of George Renny, son of Doctor Renny, who died on the 29th of September 1814 in his 21st year. And of Mrs Anne Renny, aunt of the above Mrs Renny, who died on the 24th of December 1824 aged 88 years. Likewise the remains of William Renny Esqre, born 28th November 1802, died 7th October 1840. And of George Renny Esqre MD, born August 18th 1757, died November 11th 1848. [Dr Renny tended cholera victims in the Royal Hospital during the 1832 epidemic which led to the closure of Bully's Acre.]

RENNY 59

Sacred to the memory of Margaret, widow of the Revd Patrick Renny, late of Dunkitt, County of Kilkenny, died in Dublin Novr 17th 1864 aged 64 years. [Decorated with cross. Inscription printed in JAPMDI, 10, 1917-20, 53. The National Archives Calendar of wills and administrations, 1864, contains entries for Rev Patrick Renny, Dunkitt Glebe, Co Kilkenny, died 20 December 1863, and Margaret Renny, widow, died 17 November 1864.]

ROBERTS - see LANGELEY

SENEY 42

Here lieth the body of William Ciru (sic) Seney, late regimtl sergt major of the 6th or Enniskillen Dragns, who died on the 8th June 1823 aged 42 years. This stone was erected by his loving wife Mary Anne Seney who is left to lament the loss of a tender and affectionate husband.

SMITH 37

This stone was erected in memory of Jane Smith, wife of Captn Thos Smith, who departed this life 21st Novr 1784 aged 66 years, who was his wife 46 years and was a loveing and dutifull wife, a tender mother and sincere friend.

STEELE 31

In ever loving memory of Margaret, dearly beloved wife of Lt Col John Steele, died 1st Nov 1933, and of

his daughter Hilda Margaret, died 14th Oct 1933.
[Cross with low granite enclosure.]

STEWART - see GIBBONS

TOLLAN 6

IHS with cross. Dan Tollan departed this life Jan 30th 1827? adge (sic) 70 years.

TOLNIE 46

Sacred to the memory of Captain Kenneth Tolnie, late of the Royal Hospital and formerly a captain in the Forty-second or Royal Highlanders, in which distinguished corps he served in King George the Second's wars and was one of the few officers that survived the memorable attack on Ticonderoga in North America. He married the widow of Marcus Anthony MORGAN Esqr, formerly member of parliament for the town of Athy, and died without issue the 24th day of March 1809 in the 85th year of his age. [Raised horizontal slab, with top right-hand corner broken off and lying on top of tomb.]

TRISTRAM 45

In loving memory of Catherine Sara, wife of the Rev Canon Tristram DD (chaplain Royal Hospital), died 9th December 1909 aged 65 years. [Prayer.] Also their daughter Florence Annie who died 18th January 1954. [Cross about six feet high, with inscription at base.]

VESEY 52

Underneath lie the much lamented remains of our dear Althamia?, 5th? daughter of Doer & Mrs Vesey of this hospital, tenderly beloved by her fond parents, it pleased God to deprive them of her on 19th of Feby 1811 aged 9 years & 6 months. On the 1st of April 1825 were deposited also under this stone the remains of Georgina ELWOOD, the beloved child of Robert and Anna Elwood, who departed this life at the Royal Hospital aged one year and eight months. Also the remains of the above named Revd George Vesey and Barbara his wife, grandparents of the above Georgina Elwood; the former died 28th February 1843 aged 84 years, and the latter

on 19th December 1832 aged 70 years. [Horizontal slab.]

VIVIAN 3

Georgina Vivian died ... aged 11 years. MDCCCXXV? [1835?]. [Granite obelisk about five feet high in railed enclosure, inscription semilegible. Pettigrew and Oulton's Directory 1835 lists Lt Gen Rt Hon Sir Richard Hussey Vivian Bart as master of the Royal Hospital, and a Major Vivian as one of the governors; see DNB for article on former.]

WARD - see WILSON

WATSON - see PENDERY

WAUGH 35

[Headstone:] In memory of Chas E Waugh, late sergeant major Royal Hospital Kilmainham, died Oct 17th 1905 aged 48 years. Erected by his family. [Footstone:] [Sergeant Major?] Chas E Waugh, A P? Corp, died 17 Oct 1905.

WILSON 43

This stone and burial place belongs to Major David WARD. Here lies interred the body of Major Charles Wilson, grand[father to Major] David Ward, [who departed] this life ... r of his age ... day of February 1744 [1745 New Style?]. [Raised horizontal slab. Most of inscription now illegible, above copied from JAPMDI, 9, 1913, 80.]

WOOD 4

Augusta Wood died Dec 16 1856 aged 3 weeks.

UNKNOWN

[The following stones have illegible inscriptions or are uninscribed: 5, 16, 40, 50, 65. 62 is a fragment containing only the words 'Here lies ... of Captain ...'. 26 is an iron marker numbered (obviously coincidentally) '26', and may be an example of the numbered grave markers used before inscribed stones were erected for privates.]

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Bully's Acre and Royal Hospital Kilmainham graveyards: history and inscriptions

Kilmainham is called after St Maignenn, who founded a monastery there in the seventh century. Having featured as a place of strategic importance in the conflicts between native Irish and Vikings in the eleventh century, Kilmainham succumbed to the next wave of invaders, the Anglo-Normans, and was the location for a Priory of Knights Hospitallers established in 1174 by Strongbow. Following the dissolution of the priory during the Reformation in the sixteenth century, the site lay vacant until the building of the Royal Hospital as a home for old soldiers in the 1680s. The Royal Hospital was magnificently refurbished in 1980-4 and is now a national centre for arts and culture open to the public.

In the centuries after the dissolution of the Kilmainham Priory, its cemetery continued in use, becoming known popularly as 'Bully's Acre', and because it was a free burial ground it was much resorted to by poorer Dublin citizens. The Royal Hospital authorities made vigorous efforts to close access to Bully's Acre and the adjoining Holy Well of St John, but following legal proceedings and rioting in 1764 said to have been led by the notorious Liberty Boys, the public right of access had to be tolerated grudgingly.

Bully's Acre was eventually closed in 1832, after the cholera epidemic of that year caused it to become dangerously congested. There are also two military graveyards in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, and the present publication contains the surviving memorial inscriptions from Bully's Acre and the Officers' Burial Ground, as well as a historical introduction.

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