

## HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

### FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB



### THE FIVE MILE MARKER STONE

This old marker stone below the raised section of the wall indicates a distance of five old Irish miles to the General Post Office in Dublin. It is situated on what was the Old Bray Road, now bypassed, and almost directly opposite Dunne's Stores in Cornelscourt Co. Dublin.

On September 18<sup>th</sup> 1789 it featured in a wager between two young Irishmen.

One of them was a Lieutenant in the 12<sup>th</sup> Light Dragoons, and the other was the notorious Buck Whaley. The same Buck Whaley had walked to Jerusalem and back to win a wager of £15,000. The Dragoon Lieutenant undertook to walk from this stone to the junction of Leeson St. and Adelaide Road, a distance of approximately six statute miles, in less than one hour.

The Lieutenant set off walking at a cracking pace and covered the distance in fifty-five minutes accompanied by a number of gentlemen on their horses who had to trot their mounts to keep pace with him. Buck Whaley paid over the one hundred and fifty Guineas which was the bet, to this fast Lieutenant, who was later to become the Commander in Chief of the British Army, none other than the future Duke of Wellington.

**Text and Picture:** Pádraig Laffan