

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE
NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



THE ABBEY GRAVEYARD

Nestled quietly beside the banks of the canal and just below the North Moate lies the neat little Abbey Graveyard. Near here, in times past, there was an early Abbey thought to have been founded by the FitzEustace family about (1335-56) and dedicated to St. Eustace. It is thought to have been Dominican although some would argue it was Augustinian.

Although it is thought that the abbey was sited where the graveyard now is, it was more likely located nearer the present convent. A map of 1883 in the Naas Town Hall indicates the site was close to the present school tennis court. A line drawing by Daniel Grose in 1792 shows the abbey in ruins.

According to ordnance survey letters the remains were knocked down sometime around 1835. A survey of the graveyard in 1987 by Brian Mc Cabe, Sean Sourke, David Brown, Kevin Burke and John O'Kelly identified 29 headstones and 72 burials. The oldest burial was 1789 and the most recent was 1958. Judging by the size of the area there are probably many more people buried in unmarked graves. It is interesting to note some of the stone masons mentioned; R.Sargent and J.Taylor (Naas) and T.H Dennany (Glasnevin). The headstones are upright, slab type in design, but there is one Obelisk.

Scattered around the graveyard there were many upright stones and some metal crosses without any visible markings. Sadly the metal crosses are now gone.

If walking in the vicinity it is worth a pause to feel the peace and tranquillity of this quiet place and reflect on some of the monastic history of Nas Na Riogh