

22

LEDGER

James Cassidy - 1820

A fine ledger stone commemorating James and Hubert Cassidy. The lettering is executed in an attractive classical style and despite being exposed to the weather is still sharp and very legible. Unfortunately the iconography at the top of the stone is fragmented.

Reference: GA-ODRA-0022
GPS: 53° 16' 23.5056" N, 9° 5' 15.0036" W



24

GRAVE STONE

Michael Laff - 1788

A narrow roughly hewn stone commemorating Michael Laff. The lettering is well carved but erratically laid out although the cross attached to the IHS is very nicely proportioned. We cannot find records for the Laff surname in Galway city or hinterland.

Reference: GA-ODRA-0024.
GPS: 53° 16' 23.376" N, 9° 5' 15.4068" W



48

TABLE TOMB

Elizabeth Dier - 1857

A fine example of a table tomb with curved stone legs supporting the ledger stone. The limestone used is of the highest quality and the effort in design and stone selection indicates this was an expensive, and tasteful, grave memorial.

Reference: GA-ODRA-0048
GPS: 53° 16' 23.8728" N, 9° 5' 14.6256" W



71

CHEST TOMB

John Lowther - 1839

A large and prominent chest tomb commemorating the Rev. John Lowther and the Rev. George Ussher. Lowther was the parish priest of Ragoon and lived to 93 years of age while Ussher is listed as a land holder in Ragoon townland in Griffith's Valuation.

Reference: GA-ODRA-0071
GPS: 53° 16' 23.0628" N, 9° 5' 14.4168" W



89

LEDGER

Mary Bodkin - 1880

A ledger stone with boar's head erected to the memory of Mary Bodkin. The boar's head (a variation of the boar passant) is one of the crests used by the Bodkin family, who were one of the seven tribes of Galway. There is only one other instance of its use in Galway.

Reference: GA-ODRA-0089
GPS: 53° 16' 23.7504" N, 9° 5' 14.2764" W

**Old Ragoon Graveyard**

Old Ragoon Graveyard is located at the junction of Bishop O'Donnell Rd and Ragoon Rd in the townland of Ragoon. It is now encompassed within the western suburbs of Galway city. The site of the medieval parish church of Ragoon is located in the southern central part of the graveyard although only fragments of the foundations survive. It was built of granite with limestone window and door cases. There is some evidence of an early ecclesiastical enclosure on the site and the two curving sections of the graveyard wall to the north and south may be associated with this.

A total of 273 individuals are commemorated on 202 grave memorials, which include: 38 headstones, 156 ledger stones, 5 chest tombs, 2 table tombs and a single cross. The earliest legible memorial dates to 1761 (No. 52) although most of the memorials date to the 19th century. The majority of the memorials are concentrated around the site of the church, on the high ground in the centre of the graveyard. It should however be remembered that the commemorated names only represent a portion of the individuals that are buried in this graveyard. Grave memorials erected *For Posterity* were used repeatedly for later generations without names being added to the epitaph.

The most frequently recorded surnames in Old Ragoon are Conneely (10) spelt in four different ways, Faherty (10) spelt in two different ways, Folan (6), King (5) and Walsh (5). A group of five ledger slabs (Nos. 61–66) commemorating the Faherty family lie side-by-side. The most common names are those of the local, probably Irish speaking, farming families although none of the epitaphs are *as Gaelige*. Many of the maiden names of the married women are included on the memorials. The adverb *alias* or, in one case, *otherwise* (No. 77) is used to indicate the maiden family. The preservation of maiden names in the gravestone epitaphs indicates that social status and provision of dowries were important even in death. Trade symbols are recorded on three of the memorial stones; they include a plough and harrow (Nos. 113 and 114) and a set of blacksmith tools (No. 60).

A visit to the graveyard is recommended to see this historic burial ground, frozen in time. Thereafter, stroll over the road to Ragoon cemetery where more of Galway's families have been buried since the end of the 19th century.

This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway City Council as an action of the Galway City Heritage Plan. Copies of this leaflet are available from Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Office, City Hall, College Road, Galway (Tel: 091-536547). The full results of the survey are available on <http://historicgraves.com/graveyard/old-rahoon/ga-odra>.

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



HISTORICGRAVES.COM

Historic Graveyard

Old Ragoon, Galway

Sean Reilig Rathún, Gaillimh

www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/old-rahoon/ga-odra

OLD RAHOON



SEE INSET

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