



James Francis Jameson

The remains of James Francis Jameson are interred in this enclosure located at The Curraghaun in Windfield Demesne. James Francis, the son of Reverend John Jameson and Isabella Anne Jones, was born on June 5th, 1848, at Windfield House in this townland. He was the great grandson of John Jameson who founded the Jameson Distillery at Bow Lane, Dublin, in 1780. In 1821 his grandfather, William Jameson purchased the Windfield estate, and surrounding lands, from the Blake family. James Francis, educated at Wellington College, Berkshire, held the rank of Major in the Connaught Rangers and later that of Justice of the Peace at Windfield. On April 24th 1879, he married Helen Maud Jameson, his first cousin, at the Parish Church of Donnybrook, County Dublin. Their only child, a son, Maurice Eyre Francis Bellingham Jameson, was born on May 9th 1888 became known locally as 'Master Maurice'.

In 1901 James Francis widow, Helen Maud, remarried William Pugin Thornton a retired surgeon from Kent. They resided at Windfield before relocating to Castlebellingham Co. Louth in 1909. William died in 1913 while Helen Maud was lost at sea following a torpedo strike on the RMS Leinster on October 10th 1918 by German U-boat, UB123, in the Irish Sea.

Restoration project

The restoration, rejuvenation and transformation of this memorial, facilitated by the Skehana & District Heritage Group, commenced in 2018. A special thanks to the members of our community who have supported us financially, the many volunteers who gave of their time and talents to make these enhancements possible, Galway County Council and The Heritage Council for their financial and advisory support. We reserve a special mention for the Mannion family and their ancestors, as custodians of their area, who at all times embraced the project with their kind permissions. We acknowledge our partnership with Irish Distillers, as our main sponsors and current owners of the Jameson brand, whose generous financial support and encouragement made this initiative possible.

Jameson BURIAL memorial

This burial place, enclosed by a limestone wall and railings, measures 30 feet by 23 feet, externally. It is positioned in an east/west direction in keeping with normal burial practices. The memorial headstone is erected at the west end with the entrance gate at its east end.

Memorial Headstone: This imposing granite Celtic Cross, measuring nine feet in height, marks the burial place of James Francis Jameson. A marble insert, to the front, contains inscriptions with many relevant details. Also at the front is the manufacturer's name - O'NEILL. The O'Neills monumental sculpturing business was set up in Belfast in 1879 and later expanded to have branches in Dublin and Dundalk, with both locations having strong Jameson connections. The style and lettering of this particular O'NEILL inscription indicates it was made in Dublin.

Enclosure Wall: This wall is constructed using local limestone materials which were most likely sourced from a quarrying activity immediately outside the north wall, though some may have been recycled from the remains of adjacent ecclesiastical building ruins. Lime based mortar was used to bind the structure and to render the walls, both internally and externally. While the latter has fallen away over time for the most part, remaining evidence is most pronounced on the external west wall. A decorative wall capping is in place for additional protection, strength and ornamentation.

Railings and Entrance Gate: A total length of 94 feet of railing is anchored into the wall through the decorative capping. It comprises a series of overlapping inverted U-shaped wrought iron components, stabilised through two flat parallel wrought iron runners. The entrance gate, of an identical pattern, bears the name of its maker, M.FEENY, on the vertical closing upright immediately above its sliding latch. Michael Feeney, at that time operated his business from a forge at the gate house to Clonbern Park, home to Charles Dennis O'Rorke for whom he carried out much of the iron related work. Denis Charles, a son of Reverend John O'Rorke of Moylough, was leasing large areas of land from the Mullaghmore area of the Jameson estate in the 19th century. Michael Feeney later moved to Ballyedmond to continue his forge operation and his descendants continue to reside there.