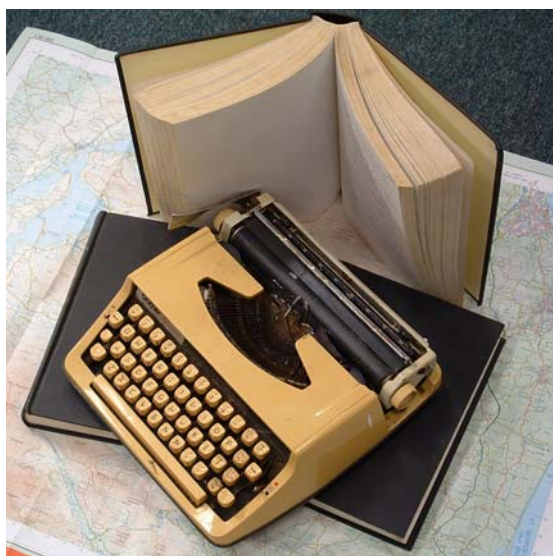


Brian J. Cantwell's  
**Memorials of the Dead**  
The Collected Works

Edited by Ian Cantwell



## Dedication

I dedicate this volume and its earlier companions to my wife Krystyna. She spent many lonely hours, in all weathers, outside graveyards, down lanes, on the mountain side under some dreadful conditions.

Throughout the years, she showed great patience and forbearance. Her companionship made the project worth while.

Brian J. Cantwell

# Biography

by  
Ian Cantwell

## Historical Background:



Brian James Cantwell (1914-92) was born in Killiney, Co. Dublin, the 2<sup>nd</sup> son and last child of James (1871-1925) and Kathleen (1878-1960, nee Halpin). He was educated in St. Gerard's, Bray, Co. Wicklow, and joined the family firm, Cantwell & McDonald, Wine and Spirit Merchants of Wellington Quay, Dublin (included Cantwell's Coffee Company, Cecilia St., and Kennedy's Mineral Waters, Coombe, Dublin) taking many cycling holidays in Europe 1935-39. During World War II he served with the Local Defence Forces and sponsored the French Red Cross, 1945-6. Around this time he was involved in the great recycling of minimal resources during the War not only providing plant and materials for the company but also building up a library from the book barrows that used to be found on the Liffey Quays. He married Krystyna Dobrzynska in 1948 and they had one child (this edition's editor) in 1949.

The company and subsidiaries went into voluntary liquidation in 1970 (Kennedy's in 1966)<sup>1</sup> whereupon he joined the Irish Kennel Club as Administrator until his retirement in 1982. This position arose from his experience as dog show judge and breeder; the family also ran a boarding kennels. He acted as Honorary Membership Secretary for the Irish Wildbird Conservancy between 1983-1991. He was also Fellow Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and Irish Genealogical Society, Honorary Life Member of the Kildare Archaeological Society, Life Member of the Royal Dublin Zoological Society and Cyclist's Touring Club and Member of the Railway Records Society as well as local historical societies in Wicklow and Wexford.

He became very familiar with Ireland having travelled the highways and byways as a commercial traveller serving secular and religious establishments; he had an International Driving Permit from 1967. As the company had 50% of the Irish alter wine trade he was well used to dealing with the Catholic Church's many institutions who needed wine, whiskey (for medicinal purposes and it is also traditional for convents to serve a glass to visiting priests who celebrated Sunday Mass in the parlour), chests of tea, tins of coffee and Irel (a chicory syrup and relic of WWII privation), cordials and minerals. His travels after retirement continued and, with a C.I.E. Free Travel Pass, he visited every part of Ireland by train on day trips.

---

<sup>1</sup> Surviving material is lodged in National Archives, Dublin Business Records, DUB 58. The vast majority of pre-1939 records were sent to Clondalkin Paper Mills for recycling between 1939-45. They also hold the family archives, NA 1182. Relevant material is in 1182/1/22-42 and includes correspondence relating to graveyard research (with photos, some of which are included) and a Cantwell genealogy.

His interest in history came from an early involvement in the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, which he joined in 1943 and served as Treasurer 1946-67, he was elected Life Fellow in 1964. He also joined the Kildare Archaeological Society in 1947-8 and served as Auditor, Treasurer and Editor (1954-9) at a period when the society was at very low ebb; good investment and the sale of their back catalogue ensured its survival and continuance. His mercantile experience was invaluable since most society members were of that social class that had little experience of financial management. He was influenced and encouraged by Liam Price, Ada K. Longfield (Mrs. H. G. Leask) and Helen Roe. He spent holidays in Co. Clare in the 1970s recording headstones with occupations and carvings.<sup>2</sup>

In the 1950s he compiled a genealogy and published *A Cantwell Miscellany* (1960) covering the early history of the surname in Ireland and included a family tree. He related how after being stuck for a long time with his great-grandfather, Timothy Cantwell, he accidentally came across a photo of his memorial in Glasnevin abandoned in a cupboard while visiting his mother. The information was invaluable in locating the family's origins in Rahan, Co. Offaly and probably influenced his later research by highlighting the importance of graveyard memorials.



16<sup>th</sup> Century Headstone to the  
Nite of Glinworth

In 1971 The Irish Genealogical Research Society formed a sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Gerard Slevin (a fellow enthusiast), Chief Herald, to “investigate the possibility of making a comprehensive recording of tombstone inscriptions”. He contributed to the committee’s proposals eloquently arguing for the need to transcribe gravestones citing his experiences in Co. Clare, etc; the original meeting was about untapped sources for Irish genealogy. As at the time the family was living in Greystones, Co. Wicklow, he volunteered to make a start on the county. On being asked, c. 1972, how long it would take to complete he said “that his grandchildren would not see it finished” little realizing that not only would he finish Co. Wicklow but would complete Co. Wexford as well.

The guidelines he used were decided at the above 1971 meeting and are given in the introduction to Volume I; the 1880 deadline was designed to cover lack of registration of deaths in the period 1864-80.<sup>3</sup> Even though later thinking pushed the date forward to 1900 he kept the 1880 benchmark for consistency and maximum geographical coverage. The volumes introductions evolved from simple addresses and later included commentary on place name variations, history and conditions of graveyards, headstones and people.

---

<sup>2</sup> The 23 sites from Co. Clare are unpublished but were typed twice c. 1980 and 1991, the latter has additional material, an occupational index and photos and sent to the Clare Heritage Centre and Clare County Library. His collection of photos was circulated to interested historians at various times (see appendix for sample correspondence with Helen Roe) but the bulk appears to have been donated to the Clare County Library in 1991. The empty envelopes, with descriptions, are in 1182/1. Photographs of decorated and other headstones from Clare, Wexford and Wicklow are included in this edition.

<sup>3</sup> See *JIGRS* Vol. 4, no. 5, pp. 515-7, 1972, for further details on procedures, what to copy, equipment and presentation. The appendix has published and unpublished articles on procedures and advice.

The procedure was to identify graveyard sites using 6" Ordnance Survey maps supplemented by Liam Price in Wicklow and Leslie and Grattan Flood in Wexford. The data was transferred to 1" map copies that were glued to hard frames. The graveyard and church was visited and memorials, if any, recorded in a spiral notebook. If there were no memorials a short note was added to the introduction (excluding Volume I). The entries were then indexed by surname using paper slips, which were then put into alphabetical order. The entries were then typed on a manual typewriter with the exception of Dublin typed with an electric. When an area had been completed the graveyards were put into alphabetical order and the volume surname and occupational indexes compiled using the same system. The volume was then photocopied, bound and distributed to local and national libraries, societies, archives and relevant sections to interested clergy as a private publication.

He was never happy at the presentation but was constrained by being a two-finger typist working on a manual typewriter and retyping pages increased the work; he estimated four hours editing and typing to one hour of fieldwork. He had neither the time nor the finances to make a more professional production and as a result there are corrections, omissions and addendums in pen and typed through the volumes and the photocopies are not the best, particularly where the ribbon-ink was fading. Ultimately he felt that the content was what was most valuable, the message was more important than the medium. He would have loved the current word-processing software with the tools that are now taken for granted; delete, insert, indent, sort, number, superscript and especially print.

It is important to note that only memorials he could see were recorded, as he did not feel it was his responsibility to fight his way through jungles of briars, nettles, wild rose, thorn, etc., clear overgrowth or dig up memorials. His philosophy was that it was the local community who were responsible for their graveyards and he always stated that his work was the first step in the recording and mapping of all memorials, preceded by clearance, if necessary. Part of his mission was to inspire proper care and maintenance of churches and graveyards by the community as a local historical source.

He placed great emphasis on interior Church memorials since he had seen that church renovations, brought about by Vatican II modernization, was responsible for the destruction and loss of many earlier memorials; "This destruction is to be deplored by the family historian" (Vol. VIII). It was also at a time when the Church of Ireland was drastically rationalizing their parish system, which led to many church closures and further losses of memorials. His gratitude to Church of Ireland



Temperance Stone from Killard, Co. Clare, 1838

clergy mentioned in all volumes reflect the fact that their churches are generally closed except for services, necessitating an appointment, whereas Roman Catholic churches are generally open through the day.

The transcription, financing and publication of the four volumes of Co. Wicklow were primarily a solo effort. At the time there was little interest in local history in the county and his only grant-aid was for publication expenses, per volume, by the Royal Irish Academy, for which he was always deeply grateful. He also received encouragement from the wider genealogical community, Joe Hayes, Wicklow County Librarian and a few local clergy and historians. It is likely that his work helped to inspire the formation of local historical societies in the county, journal publications (from 1982), and the development of heritage awareness and policy in Wicklow County Council in the 1990s. He was a firm supporter of the Wicklow Genealogical and Heritage Centre providing them with copies of his work for the county.

In Wexford he received major sponsorship from the Wexford County Library and County Council; see below. He also received further publication grants from the Royal Irish Academy for volumes V and VI and photocopies and reference books for all volumes, courtesy of Miss Dolan, and a grant from the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland for Volume VIII. Volumes X and XI were financed differently and nearly all recipients were asked to make a contribution per volume to cover production costs.

#### Wicklow:



*A decorated headstone from Killoughter, Co. Wicklow*

Volume I, 1971-4, is the most basic. Unlike the rest of the series there is no list of graveyards visited that had no memorials or list of recipients. The introductions are simply the name, denomination, parish and barony with very occasional notes of historical and archaeological interest and condition of church or graveyard. St. Paul's Bray Church of Ireland is an exception because, with the permission of Rev. Richard Large, Rector, he copied a list of burials compiled by Canon George Digby Scott c. 1897-8. He included an addendum of interior memorials not included in Scott's manuscript.

From Volume II, 1973-5, his introductions were more informative in describing the condition of the graveyard, noting unusual features and some local history but omitted baronial addresses. Examples are references to Longfield's articles on decorated headstones, which feature in all subsequent volumes, and comments about blacksmiths' iron crosses in Castlemacadam and Kilmagig.

From Volume III, 1975-6, he simplified the presentation by indexing by surname within each graveyard rather than by Surname and Christian name having come to the conclusion that it was a lot of extra work for very little benefit. Entries of more than one surname were numbered. In the first two volumes he had not included memorials from the *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of Memorials of the Dead (JMD)* since these had been already

published. From now on he saw the value of integrating their research and having both in one work. This was not to say that he wasn't sometimes critical of their elitist bias in what they chose to record; he had most respect for Walter Fitzgerald, "...from experience I find that he was a most reliable transcriber" (1984).

Most graveyards did not call for any special comment though there is the occasional note on conditions or how to find one, such as Knockloe: 'Access is through an iron gate, just east of the bridge over the River Derreen, on the main Shillelagh/Tullow road, thence across the fields in a northerly direction for approx. 1 mile. The graveyard is surrounded by a stone wall with a stile for entrance. A large number of graves are marked by uninscribed boulders'. In this case he transcribed all memorials. Other problems were the access road to Yew Tree graveyard being ploughed over and Mullinacuff caused problems due to sinking and lichen encrustation.

Volume IV, 1977-8, was completed during one of the worst winters of the period, 1978-9. It followed the same pattern and only minor changes were made in presentation thereafter; he now included photocopies of *JMD* illustrations. The reason that Glendalough appears in this rather than the first volume was due to its size and haphazard organisation, which he did not feel competent to undertake earlier.



Decorated headstone of the Passion, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare

In this area he received the only refusal to visit a graveyard but ascertained that while there were no modern memorials there were slabs with prehistoric and Early Christian carvings. He also noted the recent destruction of a burial mound at Creghorn, a tradition on Goldenfort, and the granite headstones between Dunlavin and Boystown. The latter was one of the more difficult sites to transcribe, though Kilranelagh at 1,000' was no easier due to its exposed position. Snow & ice prevented transcription in Hollywood C. of I. and Knockrigg was much overgrown. The inclusion of the Coronation Plantation Obelisk was due to its age and vulnerability. His critical comments on conditions continue: Donoughmore C. of I. due to the graveyard being 'tidied up', which resulted in the memorials being stacked in a pile and therefore unreadable, the destruction and near loss of a Church 1815 memorial to the Tyntes in Dunlavin R.C. and the possible conversion of Dunlavin Old to an 'amenity area'.

#### Irish Genealogical Research Society:

In this period he indexed the IGRS holdings of unpublished graveyards in the Genealogical Office in 1979-80.

## Wexford:

Having completed Wicklow he was contacted by the Catherine O'Rourke, County Librarian, Wexford Library Service who offered to cover his transportation expenses and costs of reproduction and binding in conjunction with the Wexford County Council. This enlightened sponsorship gave him the freedom to travel and record the whole county, which almost certainly would not have happened otherwise due to rising petrol costs and increased travel distances. The county has always had a greater tradition of historical research with many more local historians with whom he built up links and who also contributed transcriptions and gave invaluable assistance. The next five volumes are more of a cooperative effort and the anticipation felt by many as he worked across the county comes across in newspaper reports of the time. No doubt his work influenced the County Council, Churches and local communities in keeping their graveyards in good order and encouraged the many Parish Histories published since.

The credits roll as follows: In North Wexford he was greatly assisted by J. C. Warren of Camolin who gave him much invaluable advise on defunct graveyards none of which had headstones with the exception of Kilcomb, which was inaccessible, as well as introducing him to an unpublished history of T. G. Reynolds of Gorey and clearing vegetation in Ballyduff and Toome Old. He utilized registers in Christ Church, Gorey, and Godkin memorials thanks to Archdeacon Parker and N. J. Godkin, Half Moon Bay, B.C. Canada, respectively. Help was also received from the Lazenby family of Kilcashel.

In East Wexford he received a lot of useful information from Fr. Seamas DeVal, assisted in one case by Miss Mary Keane, Oulart, Canon Grant and Sam Coe, Wexford, and the Wexford Municipal Authority who provided keys for closed graveyards under their care. Mai McElroy, Bernard Browne, Nicky Furlong and other members of the Old Wexford Society organized the clearance of St. Selskar's to which he returned to make a supplement and finally Mr. Scallan, Celtic Laundry, cleared St. Magdalen's, Wexford.



Decorated headstone, Glenealy, Co. Wicklow

In South East Wexford through the good offices of Mai McElroy he was able to use Dr. R. J. and M. W. Hetherington's (of Birmingham) inscriptions of Bannow, other contributors of transcriptions were Patrick Sills, Murrinstown, and Christina Whelan, Ballyteigue. Tom Williams, Taghmon, gave him information on that area, as did Francis Leigh, Wellingtonbridge, on Ballylannan, Michael Furlong arranged a visit to Johnstown Castle's private graveyard. Meanwhile, Piercetown Graves Committee and Murrinstown Youth Club cleared Kilmacree, Drinagh and Kildavin prior to his visit.

In South West Wexford his main assistance came from Sean Cloney, Dungulph Castle, they became close friends and soul mates, and shared many evenings in wide-ranging conversations. The castle became his



base for most of this part of the county. Lt. Col. D. J. McLoughlin, Quartermaster Curragh Command and Paddy Burke, Caretaker, gave permission and assistance at Duncannon Fort. Jarlath Glynn, Wexford, and Bernard Browne, Mill Quarter, gave information.

In West Wexford he renewed acquaintance with Sean Cloney while Bernard Browne kept the flow of information going. Thomas Hayes, Kilmore, gave directions to Corlican. George Lett, Enniscorthy, provided a list of some internments at Killalligan. Rev. John T. Dunne, Leeds, gave permission for his transcription to be the basis for Rossdroit, and Mike Nolan, Enniscorthy, provided a copy of the 1905 Schedule of Exemptions from St. John's Enniscorthy.

In the final book, Volume X, he used church memorials collected by Evelyn Miller, Rathaspeck, and Patrick Sills who transcribed part of Rathaspeck and all of Kilrane. The Nolans, Ballynastraw, towed his car out of deep mud at Ballyhuskard, he recommends waders. Back in Wicklow he received access to notes and reports from Pat Power, Jim Rees and Bobby Tyrrell, Arklow, covering the Howard Vault, Kilbride and St. Mary's, Arklow.

The introductions contain the name of site (and variations), church dedications (if any), condition of graveyard, whether easy to transcribe and what any problems were, various notes on history of graveyard or memorials from Leslie or Grattan Flood, etc., references to decorated headstones and memorials from Leask, Potterton and *JMD*. He always complemented a well looked after graveyard and gave credit to the individuals, local communities and community organizations that kept their graveyards in good order.<sup>4</sup> Generally speaking the south and west of the county had less troublesome graveyards than the north and east. Whereas the former may have had 2-3 with major problems, the latter had about six.

Volume V, 1979-80, follows the procedures of the previous volumes. Due to Wexford's long interest in the 1798 Rebellion he included a list of memorials with 1798-9 as a supplement to the Occupational index.<sup>5</sup> In Askamore he includes some biographical information on James Corcoran who was killed during the 1916 Rising, a historical note on Ballinclay (Quaker), notes memorial tablets at Ballycanew, silver collection of Camolin, burial continuity at Donoughmore Old, Reynold's manuscript history of Gorey, the lack of 19<sup>th</sup> century memorials in Kilcashel, the Byrne school of decorated headstones at Kilcavan, the house vault of Kilrush C. of I., and memorials to servants at Prospect.

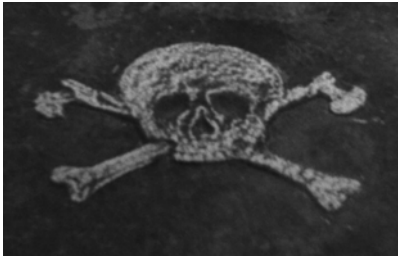
Critical comments included the re-alignment of memorials at Balindaggin Old, Castledockrill, Craanford, etc., which always destroys headstone groupings, the loss of interior memorials in Ferns R. C. when the church was replaced, neglect and defacement at Kilrush R.C., the deplorable stacking of memorials face down at Leskinfere C. of I. There were transcription problems at Ballymore, which was overgrown and part was never transcribed, Clonattin Old was only partially done as after making way through a haggard, though a field for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile, across a barbed wire topped bank he found that at least ten were

---

<sup>4</sup> He also noted any evidence of destruction, 'tidying up' and 'modernization'.

<sup>5</sup> This is only in Volume V, published in *The Past*, 1980. Deaths, 1798-9, Volumes VI-X are published in *The Past*, 1992.

in dense undergrowth, dangerous church walls at Rosminogue and torrential rain and dense shrubbery at many others.



*A rare Death's Head at Newcastle  
Co. Wicklow*

In Volume VI, 1981-3, he comments on the sole memorial to an American Civil War casualty at Boolavogue, cast iron memorials in Carrig, decorated headstones at Castleellis and Edermine, 1798 notes from Templeshannon & Kilmallock, burial procedures for drowned sailors at Killilla, World Champion Heavy Weight Thrower and 'wart stones' at Killincooly, a Colley burial puzzle at Meelnagh, windows from the Harry Clarke Studio at Monamolin, a GAA handicapper from Oulart, a rare Death's Head at Tykillen, and a Mack, stonecutter, at St. Iberius', Wexford.

Conditions were varied: Killisk was "A difficult place to find! ... Floods and deep mud made it a most unpleasant place to visit. The nearest I could get to the site was the top of a high bank, from this 'perch' I could not see any memorials". Overgrowth prevented complete transcripts at Ardcolum's, Atramont, and Templeshannon, cattle had destroyed memorials at Solsborough and Tykillen, in contrast, in Screen, he notes, "The local community have pride in its appearance". Heavy rain made life difficult at Kilmallock, Rearrangement of memorials were noted at St. Mary's, Enniscorthy, Kilmuckridge and were completely destroyed, 1963-9, at Franciscan Abbey, Wexford, though a précis and photos were taken.

Volume VII, 1984, has many notes on clerics from Leslie, the use of painted inscriptions, comments on stones carved by the Pierce (Brunswick St., Dublin) atelier, a note on the Leigh vault in Ballylannen, biases of *JMD* compilers at Carne, Churchtown, shipwreck burials at Carne, St. Vogue's, Cullenstown, Kilsoran, etc. the Rowe memorial of Grange, granite crosses in Duncormick, Church construction at Killiane Old, Browne pedigrees in Mayglass, the amusing but doubtful Hodgenson memorial at Mulrankin, the O'Toole memorial of Piercetown, a Sparrow puzzle at Churctown, Tagoat, and the brasses of Tagoat R. C.

Conditions in this area were excellent with few problems with wayward vegetation perhaps the worst was Carne, St. Vogue's which was 'deep in mud and liquid manure. This together with gale-force winds and hailstones made it a site not easily forgotten!' and Rathmacknee "was one of the worst areas of dock growth, waist high in some places, which I have ever seen" (it was just as bad in 1903 according to *JMD*). Church 'modernisation' and destruction of memorials was noted at Carrick on Bannow R. C., Kilmore R. C. and others; he was not impressed by Our Lady's Island pilgrimage site.

In Volume VIII, 1984, He noted the many decorated headstones particularly at Adamstown, Carnagh, Ramsgrange, the 170-year-old Power at Ballyhack, corrects Macalister on find-place of ogham stone, references to the Land War and a 1793 Army murder at Carnagh, a lighthouse memorial at Churchtown (Hook), unusual surnames in Clongeen, lack of memorials at Dunbrody, Military History of Duncannon Fort, An uninscribed granite slab at Faree, Brass engraving and de Ancayne slab at Fethard-on-Sea, the Foxhunting Dwyer of Kilmokea, rhyming memorials at Old Ross, and the 1914 Lifeboat disaster at Poulfur.

Probably his favourite epitaph was to Anthony Reynolds, Kinnagh: “He was faithful to his employer and although a Miller was an honest man.”

Conditions, like the South East, were good with the exceptions of overgrowth and lichen at Ballyhack, lichen at Templetown and Whitechurch. He noted modernisation at Ballycullane and Horeswood (“I’m glad to report, for once, the memorials were not broken up and destroyed ... but suffering effects of the weather”).

In Volume IX, 1985, he quotes Hore on Ardcandrisk, comments on the Richards of Askinvillar, gives a reference to the King of Sardinia in Ballyanne, notes veneration at the Brenan memorial at Ballybrennan, Ballyhogue’s bell, Clonmore’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Cogley and Quigley variants at Clonmore Old, Quaker burials at a rath at Corlican, Penzance, Cornwall and the Beatty double-burial myth at Killurin, dancing on Reynell’s slab at Monart, Medieval memorials at New Ross, decorated headstones at Rosbercon and Schedule of Exemptions at St. John’s Enniscorthy.

Conditions were good in general. He approves of the fact that Glynn’s and Killealy’s memorial tablets were not removed during renovations. Modernization is not a new phenomena, From Leslie there’s an 1832 quote on Killane: “What a pity to find ecclesiastics so little regardless of venerable architectural remains”. Killalligan’s private graveyard, surrounded by a concrete block wall, was “dangerous to enter the enclosure without a step-ladder and a plank”. St. Mary’s, New Ross, prior to clearance by a Youth Employment Scheme had been the home of wild mink,

Having completed the two counties he transcribed some sites, which he had been unable to do, that had been cleared, two graveyards that had been overlooked, Kilrane and Ballyhuskard Old and three Churches that he could not gain access to, Clonmore, Monart and Templescoby. Conditions, because of clearances were much improved though in Ballyhuskard Mr. Nolan had to tow out the car mired in deep mud outside the entrance. His third attempt to visit Chapel, Co. Wicklow, was defeated by ‘briar-topped high banks, flooding and brambles’. This is the basis of the supplementary Volume X, 1986. From other sources he included transcripts of three churches and two graveyards and a correction. It includes a ‘Memorandum on Decorated Headstones and Church Memorials’ that describes the work of Flood, Leask, Leslie, Loeber, O’Farrell, and Potterton and adds a few comments on *JMD*. He had also become critical of his original indices and felt that not only would a composite index of all ten volumes be useful but it would also give him the chance of correcting the original volume indices.



Partially obstructed headstone. The Passion, Ballintemple, Co. Wicklow, 1763

In this volume there is an 1829 rental of Enniscorthy<sup>6</sup> with biographical notes of some of the tenants taken from Pigot’s 1824 Directory, Leslie and Grattan Flood (includes the 1833

<sup>6</sup> Registry of Deeds, 566104. The credit for its discovery belongs to Eric McAuliffe.

correspondence between Bishops Keating and Elrington) and a list of Fern's Protestants 'murdered by Rebels' from *Jottings from a Parish Register* by Canon Thomas B. Gibson, 1898.<sup>7</sup> Both were included due to their rarity and importance though they do not strictly fall within his remit.

Having completed Wexford he was approached by Carlow County Council as to whether he would care to cover the county in conjunction with Muintire Na Tire who were running a graveyard-recording scheme in the county at the time. He thought about it but decided against on the grounds the work was already in capable hands and that the crossing backwards and forwards over the Wicklow Gap in winter, the best time for transcribing, was not to be recommended. From 1987 his workload in the Irish Wildbird Conservancy increased to 3-4 days a week after its transfer from Greystones to Monkstown. The new computer's databases of the time, needed for accounts and membership records, were still a bit experimental and often full of flaws and frustrations.

### Dublin:

In his spare time he continued recording in South Dublin but since there are many other individuals and groups working on graveyards in the city and county he concentrated on churches. These he felt were underestimated and often more vulnerable, many have been destroyed or been changed to secular use in the previous forty years. It was while trawling through these that he found the only family connection, a panel listing his grandfather's name, Thomas Francis Cantwell, as a bell donor, at Mount Argus and commented, "It was good business".

This resulted in his eleventh and final volume published in 1990,<sup>8</sup> which covers 76 churches and graveyards.<sup>9</sup> The occupational index is comprehensive and includes miscellaneous causes of death and memorials dedicated to various Parish societies. Most churches visited were modern Roman Catholic reflecting the expansion of the city from the Victorian period. By contrast some Church of Ireland churches were not included since many have been converted to secular use in recent rationalization of parishes churches.

In the introductions he gives brief notes on foundation dates, constitution, dedications and parish histories. He makes occasional connections between Dublin and Wexford or Wicklow families, there are comments on church services in St. Bartholomew's, Clyde Road, the Magan family of Crinken, political censorship at Christ Church, 'Kingstown', history of Mariner's Church, the Pauper's Graveyard at Loughlinstown, Patrick Doyle's 1916 memorial at Milltown, Old Connaught, the Cornwall window and Roche and Dean Grady families at St. Brigid's, Stillorgan, the O'Neal stone at Old Connaught. He obtained help from Eva O'Cathaoir on Loughlinstown Pauper's Graveyard and Rev. Canon John Crawford on St. Kevin's, S.C.R., and was helped in St. Brigid's, Stillorgan, by Tommy Rath, Sexton, and in St. Andrew's by Billy Dawson, Sexton.

---

<sup>7</sup> Copy of book donated by a descendent, Ms. Margaret Williams, Canada.

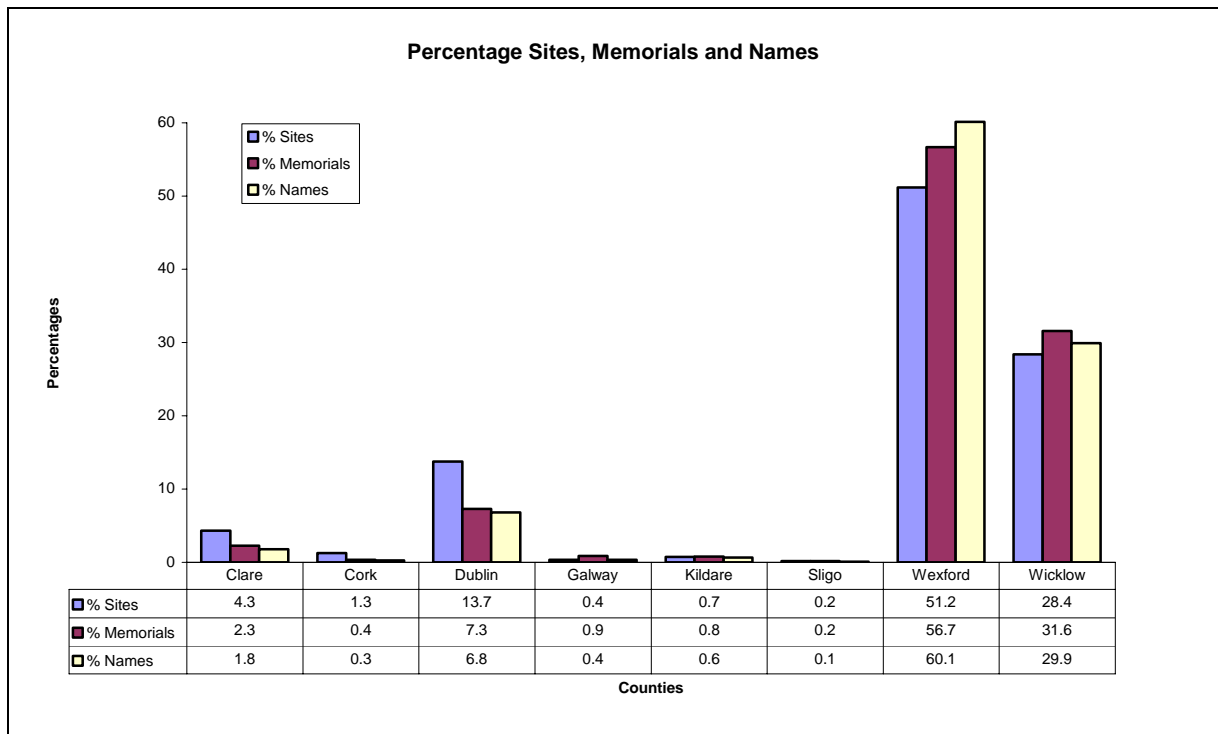
<sup>8</sup> The editor's contribution to volume XI was due to convenience, it was easier for me to visit these churches on Sunday mornings.

<sup>9</sup> Kilgobbin Old, 57 memorials & 263 names was transcribed but he notes that 'Rejected – per M Egan' (NA 1182/1/33).

Overall:

In fourteen pages of analysis he estimated that over twenty-five years, 1966-1990, he visited 546 sites, transcribed 24,392 memorials with the names of 67,297 people on 102 notebooks<sup>10</sup> and is broken down as follows:

County	Sites	Memorials	Names	Published
Clare	24	613	1235	None
Cork	9	91	188	None
Dublin	76	1712	4694	All
Galway	1	101	243	All
Kildare	4	189	437	Three
Sligo	1	36	57	None
Wexford	283	13280	41167	All
Wicklow	157	7482	20672	All



Epilogue:

<sup>10</sup> Averaging 44.67 memorials per graveyard & 2.76 names per memorial. NA 1182/1/34. The first (1966-70) 2<sup>nd</sup> (1970-2) and 102<sup>nd</sup> (1990) are the only survivors, his policy was to dispose of when finished. Another two have transcripts from *JMD*, etc.

Brian J. Cantwell passed away peacefully, while surrounded by his family, after a short illness at Our Lady's Hospice, Dublin in January 1992. His ashes were scattered at his favourite places in Wicklow and to the four winds of Cich Cualann's<sup>11</sup> summit.

Since then some of his friends, comrades and fellow transcribers have also passed on to their eternal reward. "My House has many Mansions", hopefully includes a permanent convocation of historians, a library where the angel librarians are only run off their wings in getting books, a snug with armchairs round an oak fire for conversations deep into the eternal night...



Brian J. Cantwell

---

<sup>11</sup> Great Sugar Loaf, Co. Wicklow

## Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Rosemary Ffolliott and the Committee of the Kildare Archaeological Society for permission to include published transcriptions of Cos. Galway and Kildare from the *Irish Ancestor* and *Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society* in this publication. I am also indebted to the Old Bray Society for permission to publish an article extract from the *Bray Historical Record*. Lastly I am indebted to the National Archives for permission and facilitating the scanning of transcriptions, photographs, correspondence and other images from the Cantwell Archive. I wish to thank the staff of the Wexford and Wicklow County Libraries for assistance in tracking down articles for the bibliography.