



Even though my father's family came from Heir Island, the first time I heard about coffins coming across the water was from my mother's mother, Mary who is my neighbour in Reengaroga.

One day while out exploring my local area I noticed a rock with a clearly defined hole in it. It would have been very easy to miss it but my curious nature took over. When I asked my mother, she told me the story her father told her about how coffins were brought across on rowing boats from Heir Island on their way to Creagh graveyard, and would moor their boats to the rock I found.

Eugene Daly wrote a book "Heir Island – It's history and people" so I read that to get more information.

"The corpse was shouldered a part of the way to Cuaisin nag Corp south of the pier in Heir Island East. A pony and cart carried it the rest of the way. The coffin was always placed on the rocks in Cuaisin nag Corp, where it was believed the flag iris plant grew in the form of a cross. The coffin was then placed in the boat belonging to the family or a near relative. The boats were rowed in cortege each boat tied by a rope to the boat ahead of it, about ten to twenty yards apart. The coffin landed on Inane Point, Reengaroga another special place where a flag iris was said to flower. The coffin was shouldered from there to Creagh graveyard."

My great grandfather remembers this happening in the 1920's and beyond. I wonder were any of these burials linked with the troubles of the time.

Kevin Harte

Reengaroga

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The view through  
the hole



31/01/2017



31/01/2017

The  
Hole



31/01/2017



Head  
stones

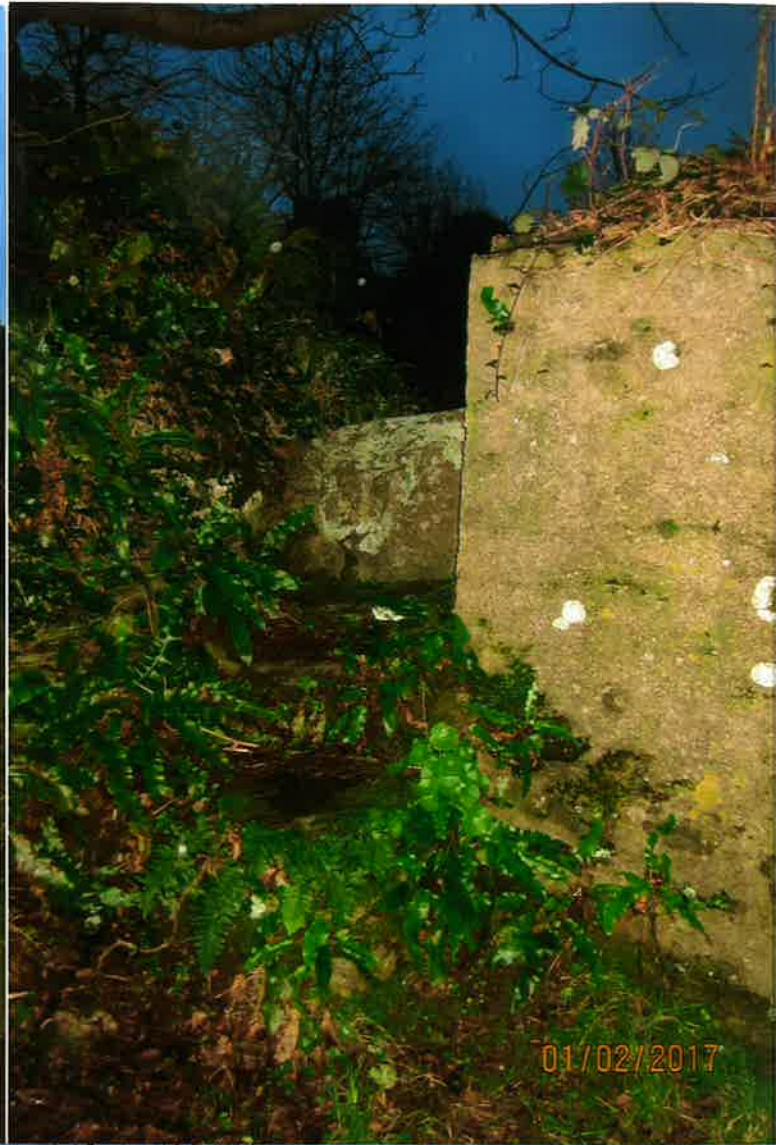
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The road down  
to the church



Steps down  
to the church



Creagh  
Church

