

09

HEADSTONE

Festus Lye - 1761

This memorial to Festus and Joan Lye is one of a group of 24 headstone which have been re-erected in a line on the western side of the garden at the rear of the Franciscan church. The Roman script in false relief on this stone is very clear in sunshine.

Reference: GA-FRAN-0009  
GPS: 53° 16' 30.2484" N, 9° 3' 17.4096" W



41

LEDGER

Charles Bird - 1781

The carved skull and crossbones suits the grim sentiment of this stone: *Af I was once like thee so surely thou shalt be a skeliton like me then haste and snatch the present hour implore the Mercy seat least Death should rob thee of thy power...*

Reference GA-FRAN-0041  
GPS: 53° 16' 30.9108" N, 9° 3' 16.3296" W



67

LEDGER

De Burgo - 1645

This memorial is one of six re-erected on the northern garden-wall. The Latin inscription runs around the edge. The slab is decorated with a sword and shield bearing a version of the de Burgo arms with cross, lion rampant and Red Hand of Ulster.

Reference: GA-FRAN-0067  
GPS: 53° 16' 30.18" N, 9° 3' 15.2892" W



68

TOMB

Peter French - 1631

Two panels of the tomb of Sir Peter French and his wife Mary Browne survive. One of these, an armorial plaque, has a depiction of the arms of the owners and two figures- St Patrick and St Nicholas. The owners' names are inscribed below the shield.

Reference: GA-FRAN-0068  
GPS: 53° 16' 30.09" N, 9° 3' 15.39" W



70

MONUMENT

Dominick Browne - 1596

Only part of this monument has survived, it was probably incorporated into an 18th century monument to the Browne family. The Browne arms is carved in false relief. Details include a double-headed eagle, an eagle head on a helmet, and spirals of foliate mantling.

Reference: GA-FRAN-0070  
GPS: 53° 16' 29.91" N, 9° 3' 15.4116" W



Franciscan Friary | Reilig Shéipeál na bProinsiasach

The Franciscan friary (GA094-102) was founded by William de Burgo in 1296. It was located on St Stephens's Island on the eastern bank of the River Corrib. The island is now reclaimed and accessible by land. The present Franciscan church on Francis St. is located to the south, but the original St Stephen's Island complex was once a larger complex. It is shown on a number of early maps. The friary comprised a range of lands and buildings which included a large church, with side and chantry chapels, sacristies and ancillary buildings. Mills, bridges, weirs, barns, sheds, and outhouses would have formed part of the extensive friary. In 1657 the monastery was closed and all the buildings were demolished, with the exception of the church which was reused as a court house. The friars returned to the area in 1689 when the buildings were reoccupied and repaired. Further work was carried out in the early 18th century. By this time, however, the focus of the Franciscan order had shifted from here at St. Stephens Island to Francis St. and Newtownsmith. In the beginning of the 18th century the church at St. Francis St. was a simple thatched building, work on the construction of an impressive new church commenced in 1781.

A cemetery or perhaps several burial areas were located inside and outside the church. These changed and expanded over the centuries, funerary monuments were moved, altered, reused and incorporated into other contexts. Architectural fragments and elements of funerary monuments are preserved built into 19th century building on Waterside, Francis St., and Mary St. Only a small fraction of the many monuments once erected in this graveyard are now visible, and none are in their original position. The Abbey was one of the most prominent places of burial for the tribal families, including branches of the Lynch, Blake, D'Arcy, Morris and Skerretts, but most of these are now lost. Only 72 stones are visible in the garden to the west of the present church. Another 14 memorial stones, once located in the church yard and published by Hardiman in 1820, have since been lost. A number of memorial stones were recorded in 2009 during construction of a parking area in the friary.

*Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer, Galway City Council.*  
For more information see: 'Franciscan Monuments, Funerary and other Stone Carvings at Francis Street and Newtownsmith' by J. Higgins (2018).

This project was funded by the Heritage Council and Galway City Council as an action of the Galway City Heritage Plan. The full results of the survey are available on [www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/franciscan-friary/ga-fran](http://www.historicgraves.com/graveyard/franciscan-friary/ga-fran)

Published by Galway City Council



HISTORICGRAVES.COM

Reilig Shéipeál na bProinsiasach

Franciscan Friary

Graveyard, St Francis Street, Galway



# Reilig Shéipeál na bProinsiasach

## Franciscan Friary Graveyard



### Eolas | Information

As part of Galway City Council's policy of making information on heritage freely available, a summary brochure like this one is being prepared for each of Galway City's 28 areas. These are being printed along with a map as a guide for those who visit our graveyards. The monuments on the maps are numbered and are linked to the [historicgraves.com](http://historicgraves.com) and [galwaycity.ie](http://galwaycity.ie) websites. This allows anyone anywhere to research their ancestry and kinship in the Galway area without charge. Copies of the following 16 leaflets; Ballybrit, Bushypark, Castlegar, Castlelawn, Convent of Mercy Forster St. and Francis St., Franciscan Abbey, Forthill, Menlo, Old Rahoon, Poor Clare Monastery, Roscam, St Mary's Dominican, St Patrick's, Salthill Upper and United Methodist Presbyterian are available from the Heritage Office, City Hall, College Rd, Galway (Tel: 091 536547/536516) and from city library branches free of charge.

Key	Headstone	Kerbed Grave	Cross or Pedestal	Ledger or Chest tomb	Vault or Mausoleum
	29	34	08	56	50