

# **The Graveyard**

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Carrowkeribla, Attymass, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

There is a graveyard in Bonnifinglass which is supposed to be there over a hundred years. There are ruins of an old church in a wood to the back of it and which is said to be the only church in the County Mayo. There are ruins of an old house beside the old church at which the priest used to live. There is a breen leading to the graveyard with palm trees each side of it. The River Moy is to the back of the graveyard. There is a deep hole in the river just opposite the graveyard where, it is supposed there was a man drowned, and the bottom of the hole could never be found.

In the Penal Days there was a great award offered to anyone who got a priest's head. Sometimes there was five pounds offered and other times there was twenty pounds offered for it. The priest, used to have areas and hiding places made under the ground for safety. The pursuer was on horseback and McManus was just as far as the priest when the horse slipped and fell into the river Moy just opposite the Bonnifinglass Graveyard and when people went to look for the body they could not find it and the bottom of the place could never be found and ever after that place in the river was called McManus's Hole.

There were three men drowned in that hole a good few years ago. One of them was from Tunnagh near Curradriah where Will's now live, the other was from Baile Na Sleibe in the Knockmore Parish and the other was from Curra near the Lios An Scoil.

There is a ghost to be seen, ever since, at this deep spot in the river, ever since the time that McManus was drowned in it and the water in that place is always yellow.

There is a grave in John Barrett's field in Bonnifinglass which is marked by a big stone with a lot of little stones on the top. Long ago there on a hill nearby afterwards called Carraig Ui Eaghra, and the giant that got the victory buried his enemy in that place and he dug the grave with his spear and put stones overhead as a mark, and ever since the field is called "An Uaigh Lán" or The Full Grave.

There is a place in the Bonnifinglass Wood near the village of Drom Scoba or Baile Cnoic where there is supposed to be a person buried and there is a stone over the grave as a mark. It is a mossy stone with a mark of some kind on it and one day when a person took a bit of the moss it flew out of their hand and landed directly on the stone and when they went for it again the moss would not come off the stone for them, so ever since nobody tried to take any moss off that stone for they thought it was the dead person was holding it on and was not pleased to part with it. Children who die and who are not baptised are buried inside the gate of the Bonnifinglass Graveyard.

There was a woman in Mullahowney, (whose name was Bid Franey) who was buried in Anthony O'Dowds wife's grave. She was a native of Carrowkeribla and who was buried in the Bonnifinglass Graveyard and when Bid Franey was two weeks buried, she was taken up and put down in her own grave.

The Bonnifinglass Graveyard is beside John Keveny's Public House, and it is beside the River Moy. It is also beside the Bonnifinglas Woods and beside the Bonnifinglass Fairgreen.