

EXPERIENCE  
**Clasnevin**  
IRELAND'S NATIONAL CEMETERY

RESEARCH HISTORY



**KEEP AN  
EYE OUT  
FOR THESE  
SYMBOLS  
THROUGHOUT**



**Discussion**



**Task**



**Keyword**

## During this project you will:

- **Discover** the origins and history of Glasnevin Cemetery.
- **Conduct** original historical research.
- **Explore** a variety of events from the past.
- **Develop** an awareness of the connections between Ireland and various international events.
- **Collaborate** in groups.
- **Share** your findings with the class.

### Introduction to Glasnevin Cemetery

On 22 February 1832, the burial of Michael Carey took place. Michael was an 11 year old boy from Francis Street who died of tuberculosis. His headstone states that his was the first burial and since then over one million people have been buried in the cemetery.

A visit to Glasnevin Cemetery can teach us about ordinary people, as well as famous figures from the past. Many important people from Irish history were laid to rest within Glasnevin including: Charles Stewart Parnell, Countess Markievicz, James Larkin, Maud Gonne MacBride, Éamon de Valera, Michael Collins and Daniel O'Connell – founder of Glasnevin Cemetery.

### What skills will I learn from this project and how does it link to Transition Year?

#### This project encourages:

- Research skills
- Organisation skills
- Communication skills
- Group-work capabilities

#### Guidelines for TY include:

- Enabling students to take a greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.
- Helping students to develop a range of transferrable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills.

### What do I need to complete this project?

- This Project Pack
- Internet Access
- Access to additional sources: Online or through the Library.



## Key Words

If you find any other new words be sure to look up their meaning!



### Literacy Link:

Use each of these keywords in a sentence.

**Interment** - is another word for burial.

**Census** - is a count of the population which is carried out by the government.

**Context** - is the general situation surrounding an idea or an event. So what else was happening at the time? This is important as it adds to our understanding of an idea or an event.

**Primary Source** - is a source that dates from the time of the event.

**Secondary Source** - is a source that was created after the time of the event.

**Chronological Order** - arrange events in order of time starting with the event that happened first.

**Biographical** - facts and details about the life of a person.

## Notes



## Task

Carry out research to investigate the history of Glasnevin Cemetery - use the template on the last page to structure your work.

# Exploring the Cemetery

## We often say that in Glasnevin Cemetery 'Ireland's History is Carved in Stone'.



### Discussion Points

What genealogical information is commonly found on headstones?

Inscriptions on headstones are important sources for the study of history. If you are interested in local history they can reveal a lot of information about a particular area. As Glasnevin is Ireland's largest cemetery, there is a wealth of historical and genealogical information to be discovered.

Headstones often list major events that people (or members of their family) were involved in. See the example below. Why do you think this information was recorded here?



### GILBERT KELLY

This headstone marks the grave of Gilbert Kelly who died in 1899. It also remembers his son – Gilbert Grace Kelly – 'who was killed at the Somme, 26th September 1916, aged 25 Years, and is interred near Flers'.



### Discussion Points

Using only the information on the headstone what statements can you make about?

1. The life of Gilbert Grace Kelly.
2. The experience of some Irishmen at this time.  
Soldiers from the British Army who died during the First World War were buried on or very near to the battlefield. You can find out more about individual soldiers from the British Army, using the records on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website <https://www.cwgc.org/> . Search these records for Gilbert Grace Kelly.
3. What did you discover about his family?
4. Is there any memorial in France to Gilbert and what did you learn about its location?  
(Be sure to use the CWGC records if investigating either World War.)

The variety of locations and historical events that are listed highlight:

1. The involvement of people from Ireland in world events.
2. The global movement of people.
3. The impact of events on Ireland and Irish people.



At the end of this section you will find images of headstones that are located within Glasnevin Cemetery. A transcript accompanies those that are difficult to read. Your final task is outlined below and requires you to research and learn about the historical event which is listed on an individual's headstone.



## Task

**Investigate the historical event listed on one of the featured headstones.**

- Depending on student numbers and the context of the class, this task may be completed independently or in groups.
- Research reliable Secondary Sources.
- This must be your own work.
- Include Primary Sources: Burial records are included in this booklet, search the 1901 and 1911 Census and use the websites suggested on page 12.
- Some of the people are not buried in the cemetery, so keep this in mind when researching the records included in this pack.
- Is there a link between your locality and any of these events?
- As always keep a list of your sources and include this list at the end of the task.
- Explore the event and the impact/connection to Ireland.
- Decide - how you will share your findings? E.g. – a report as a Word Document/a PowerPoint Presentation/a poster and a talk.

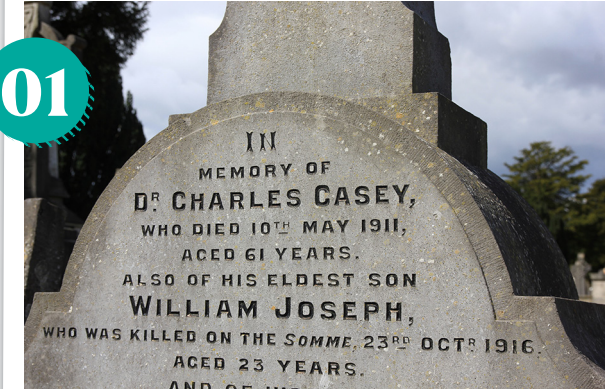


## Time to Begin

**Start with a brainstorm -**  
do you have any prior knowledge of this event?  
What sources immediately spring to mind?

After you have carried out your initial research and know a little more about the event, think about the questions in the boxes below.

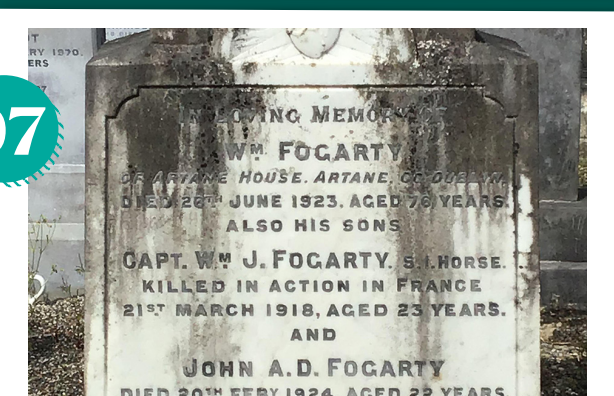
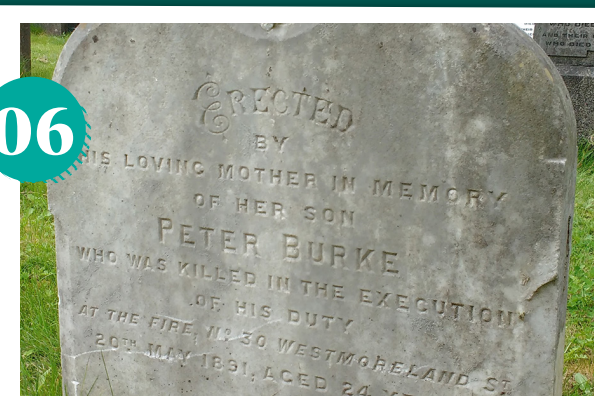
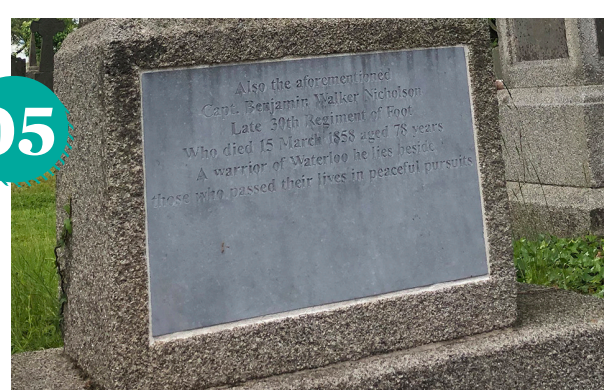
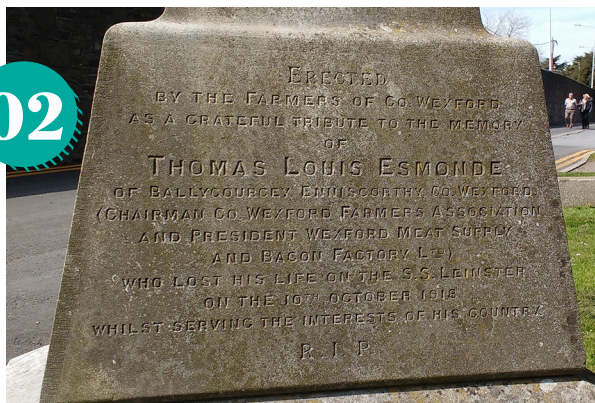
# Transcripts



**Transcript No 4.**  
SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF E.M. O'CALLAGHAN  
WHO LOST HER LIFE THROUGH AN ACT OF  
CHARITY IN THE SMALLPOX OF 1872  
SHE WAS WHILE HERE BELOW  
A FAITHFUL WIFE AND AN AFFECTIONATE  
AND WATCHFUL MOTHER  
ERECTED BY HER AFFECTIONATE CHILDREN

**Transcript No. 5**  
Also the aforementioned  
Capt. Benjamin Walker Nicholson  
Late 30th Regiment of Foot  
Who died 15 March 1858 aged 78 years  
A warrior of Waterloo he lies beside those who  
passed their lives in peaceful pursuits.

**Transcript No. 7**  
IN LOVING MEMORY OF WM FOGARTY OF  
ARTANE HOUSE ARTANE CO.DUBLIN  
DIED 26<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 1923, AGED 76 YEARS  
(Please refer to the image for remaining information)



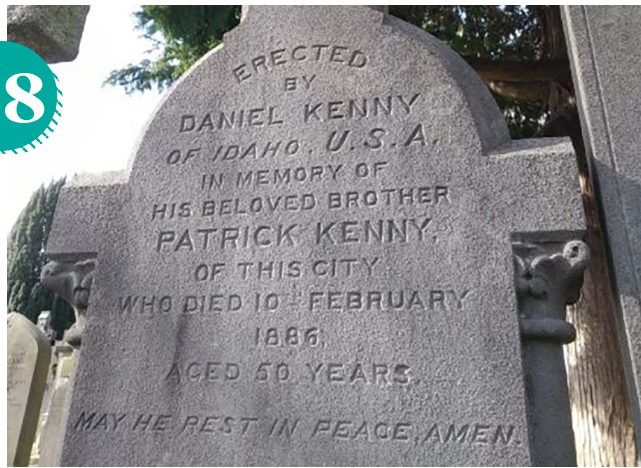
**Transcript No. 9**

SQUADRON LEADER F.D.R. (DESMOND) HYNES DIED 15TH JANUARY 1964  
INTERRED New Front Cemetery, Gibraltar.....

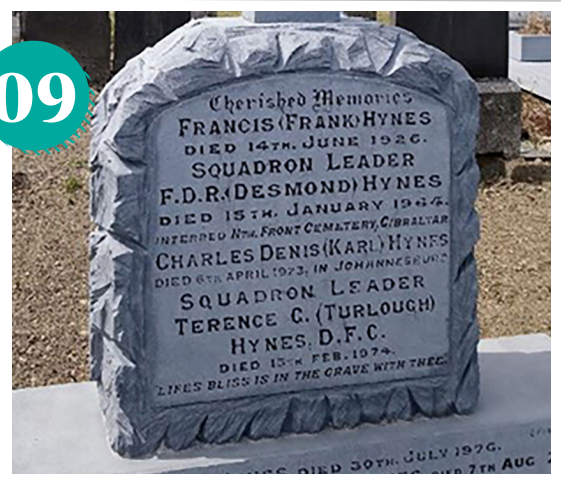
**Transcript No. 14**

ALSO OF EDITH MAUD CRYAN BORN IN FLORENCE ITALY  
DIED IN DUBLIN 10TH MARCH 1919 OF TYPHOID CONTRACTED ON  
ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE FRENCH RED CROSS.

08



09



10



11



12



13



14





# Have you thought about?

(Below are some suggestions to help to guide your research, it is not exhaustive.)

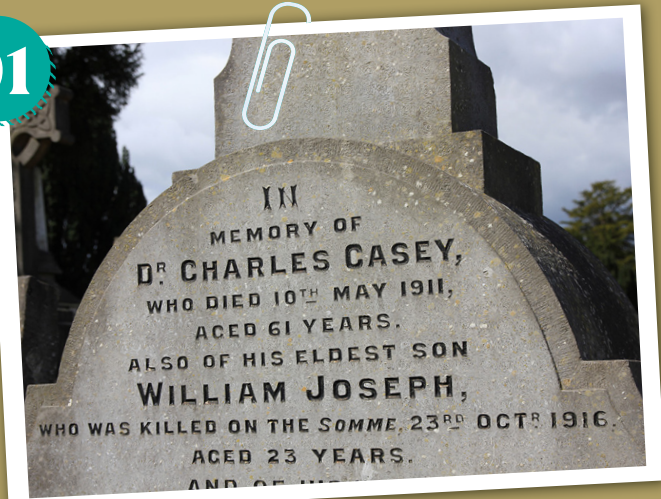
## Top Tips

Use your school's details to access the Irish Newspaper Archive through

<https://www.scoilnet.ie/scoilnet/tools-for-teachers/ina/>  
your teacher may have to set up an account for the class.

You can magnify the document if needed.

01



### The Battle of the Somme

- Providing an overview of the First World War?
- What was happening in Ireland at this time?
- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain the Battle of the Somme.
- What particular battle/event is linked to the person listed?
- What was the overall effect of this battle?
- Can you find facts from primary sources and secondary sources?

### Sinking of the RMS Leinster

- What was the **context** of this event?
- What did you discover about the origins of the ship?
- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain the details.
- What was the impact of this event?
- Can you find information about any of the people on board?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

02





03



### The Boer War

- Which Boer War are you focusing on? (Use the information on the headstone to figure this out).
- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain the war.
- What was the involvement of Irishmen in this war?
- What was the outcome of this war?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

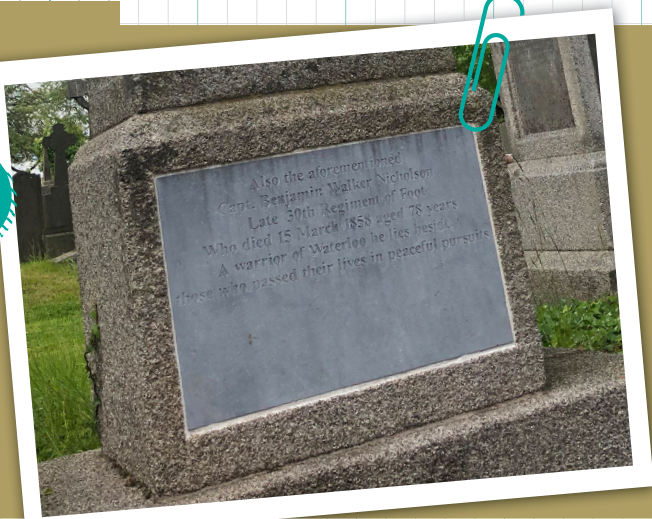
### Smallpox pandemic 1870s

- What were living conditions like across different social classes?
- How did a pandemic occur?
- Was medical knowledge effective at the time/was there an understanding of disease?
- What was the impact of this pandemic?
- How was smallpox dealt with?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to your information?

04



05



### The Battle of Waterloo

- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain this battle.
- What was the overall impact of this event?
- Were many Irish soldiers involved?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

### The Dublin Fire Brigade

- What are the origins of the fire brigade in Dublin?
- How did it develop throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries?
- What equipment was used in the 1890s?
- Have you searched the records for information on this individual?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

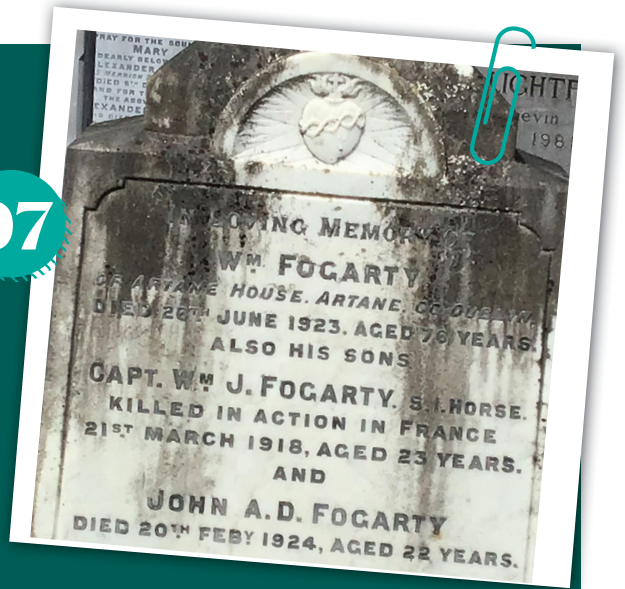
06



## Killed in Action in France

- Providing an overview of the First World War?
- What was happening in Ireland at this time?
- Searching the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to find out more?
- The listed date of death? Pay close attention as it was the beginning of a particular stage of the war in 1918.
- What was the overall effect of this battle?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

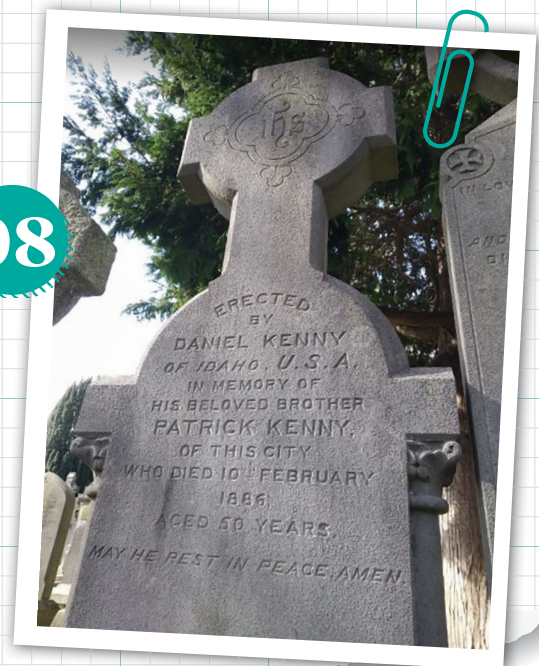
07



## Irish Emigration

- Providing an overview of Irish emigration in the nineteenth century.
- What parts of the world did people most commonly emigrate to?
- Where is Idaho? What was the American west like in the nineteenth century? What factors may have attracted emigrants to these areas?
- Did you find any interesting stories about particular people who emigrated?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

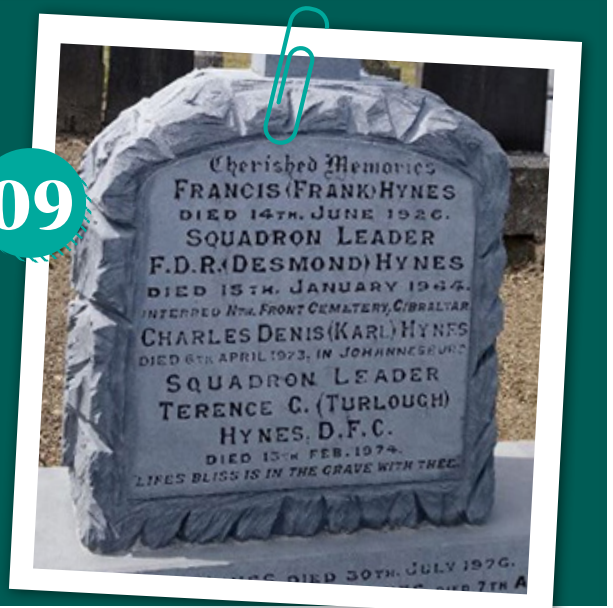
08



## 'Squadron Leader' - The Second World War

- Providing an overview of the war and Ireland's position at the time.
- What was the role of this individual?
- Have you discussed the RAF?
- Did many Irish soldiers fight in this war?
- Where is this person buried? What did you discover about that place?

09



## Irish Republican Brotherhood

- Information on the establishment of the IRB?
- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain the event in Tallaght on the date in question.
- Did you locate information about this individual?
- What was the political situation in Ireland at this time?
- What was the impact of this event?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

10



11



## Women's Royal Air Force

- Providing an overview of the First World War?
- What was the WRAF and what duties did they carry out?
- What roles did women play in the First World War?
- How did the war impact the lives of women?
- Have you researched the context of Anne's cause of death at the time?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

## Cumann na mBan

- The origins of Cumann na mBan?
- What role did this organisation play in the 1916 Rising?
- Have you included information on the War of Independence and the Irish Civil War?
- What have you discovered about the role of this person in Cumann na mBan?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

12



## Boland's Mill Garrison 1916

- Think of the 5 W's – When, Where, What, Why and Who? To explain the events of the 1916 Rising.
- During the Rising what happened in the area surrounding Boland's Mill and Bakery?
- Have you looked at specific events that this garrison were involved in?
- What have you discovered about the role of this person during the Rising?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to this information?

13



## Typhoid and the First World War

- How did the war contribute to the spread of disease?
- Was medical knowledge effective at the time/ was there an understanding of disease?
- Have you discovered information about this individual and the Red Cross?
- How was typhoid dealt with? How is it dealt with in the modern day?
- Can you find facts from primary sources to add to your information?

14



## Extension Ideas

### 1. Map Work

What parts of the world featured in your research? For example: If you were researching the First World War you may have discussed France. On the map below locate the country that featured in your work. Title the country and draw a link back to Dublin. (If all members of the class fill in the map/or individual maps it will reflect just some of the many connections between international events and Ireland).

### 2. Reflection

- a. What new skills and knowledge did you develop during your research?
- b. Select a different historical event (that was shared by a member of the class) and explain what you found interesting about that event and why? Also discuss the sources that were used by your classmate and how they added to your understanding of the event.
- c. Did this project make you more aware of the historical and genealogical information that is contained within cemeteries?



Print a larger sized map or include one in your work.



**Task 1:** Investigation into the History of Glasnevin Cemetery.



**Task 2:** Investigate the Historical Event listed on one of the featured headstones.



Well done! You have completed the  
**Research History**  
Project from Experience Glasnevin

## Useful websites:



Dictionary of Irish Biography: <https://www.dib.ie/>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission - use when researching the First and Second World War.  
<https://www.cwgc.org/>

**Information about the Red Cross:**

<https://vad.redcross.org.uk/Card?fname=Edith+&sname=Cryan+&id=53579&first=true&last=true>

**Records for the Women's Royal Air Force:**

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

*(Please Note: Certain websites will charge a fee/subscription rate in order to access other levels of information. This project does not require you to pay for any sources. Make use of the information that is freely available and then move onto finding additional reliable sources.)*



## Top Tips

Here are some tips that will help if you are looking through the Census and the records:

- If you can't find any results with an Irish name try the English version e.g. Seán is John.
- The person may not have always been in Dublin, try searching other counties listed on the census.
- Most records that are accessible online will have a help or "frequently asked question" section.

# Irish Emigration

Primary sources records reveal that Daniel Kenny of Bingham County, Idaho, purchased public land (roughly 2.5 acres) from the United States of America in the town of Pocatello, Idaho.

## Burial Records - Glasnevin Cemetery

01

Year: 1886				NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES	MARK OF GRAVE		
Date of Interment	Sexton's Number	Registrar's Number	ADULTS		CHILDREN				Latitude		Longitude		
					Years	Years	Months	Weeks				Days	
February 1886	12	229777	230442	Patrick	Kenny	50						L J	South 28

Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A. B. of"	Alleged Disease or Cause of Death	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars	Date of Issuing Order for Interment
February 10 1886	Male	Catholic	Mechanical Engineer	Married	Bronchitis	Michael Kenny, 15 Elizabeth Street Clonlife Road County Dublin	February 11 1886

02

Year: 1891				NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES	MARK OF GRAVE		
Date of Interment	Sexton's Number	Registrar's Number	ADULTS		CHILDREN				Latitude		Longitude		
					Years	Years	Months	Weeks				Days	
May 23	250705	251114	Peter	Burke	24							T H	179 3

Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A. B. of"	Alleged Disease or Cause of Death	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars	Date of Issuing Order for Interment
May 20	Male	Catholic	Firebrigademan	Single	Accidentally killed by falling from a fire escape	Mary Anne Burke, 15 Risen Square Dublin	May 22

03

Year: 1919				NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES	MARK OF GRAVE	
Date of Interment	Sexton's Number	Head Office Order Number	ADULTS		CHILDREN				Latitude		Longitude	
					Years	Years	Months	Weeks				Days
February 21	360158	361027	Anna	Connor	37							N 26 S

Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A. B. of"	Alleged Disease or Cause of Death	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars, and who made Arrangements for Burial	Date of Issuing Order for Interment
February 14	Female	Catholic	Soldier's wife	Married	Influenza	James Douglas 98 North Buildings A. S.	February 17

# Burial Records - Glasnevin Cemetery

04

Sexton's Number	Registrar's Number	Latitude	Longitude	NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES
					ADULTS		CHILDREN			
					Years	Years	Months	Weeks	Days	
16	9	Ab	62	Major Benjamin Walker	70					

05

Year: 1918				NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES	MARK OF GRAVE	
Date of Internment	Sexton's Number	Head Office Order Number			ADULTS		CHILDREN				Latitude	Longitude
				Years	Years	Months	Weeks	Days				
October 15	257228	352786	Thomas Louis Emonds	53						Ballynacorney, Limerick County Wexford (S.S. Limerick Rail Sta)	St. Joseph's	

Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A.B. of"	Alleged Disease or Cause of Death	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars, and who made Arrangements for Burial	Date of Issuing Order for Internment
October 10	male	Catholic	Postman	married	Drowning	Mabelle Mary Emonds Kilgallon, Wick County Wexford	1918 October 14

06

Year: 1872				NAMES	AGES					RESIDENCES	Mark of Grave	
Date of Internment	Sexton's Number	Registrar's Number			ADULTS		CHILDREN				Latitude	Longitude
				Years	Years	Months	Weeks	Days				
January 20	165462	166003	Elizabeth	Mary Oballaghan	45					23 Tritonville Road Dundymount, County Wick	St. Michael's	56

Date of Death	Sex	Religious Persuasion	Rank or Occupation	If "Married," "Single," "Widow," "Widower," or "the Child of A.B. of"	Name and Residence of Informant of Particulars	Date of Issuing Tickets for Internment
January 18	Female	Catholic	Housewife	Widow	Frederick Michael O'Connell, 21, Tritonville Road, Dundymount, County Wick	January 19



# Task 1 Template

Investigate the History of Glasnevin Cemetery.  
The questions below will help to construct your report.

## Origins of Glasnevin Cemetery

A

Include:  
When did it open?  
Why was the cemetery set up?  
Information on the founder of the cemetery.  
Additional points of interest.

## Development of the cemetery

B

What was the original name and size of the cemetery?  
How many people are buried in the cemetery? How large is the cemetery? Why were watchtowers built? Include information on well-known historical figures. Additional points of interest.

C

## The O'Connell Tower

Include details on the building of the tower. Provide information on Daniel O'Connell. Why was the tower closed to the public until 2018 and what steps were taken to reopen it? Additional points of interest.

D

## What stood out to you?

Be sure to include different facts that you found interesting and explain the reasons why.