

First Burial in Birr United Cemetery 1835

In 1948 a brief account of the first burial in the Birr United Cemetery was written in the newspaper. The old oak slab erected to mark the grave of George McConnell 1765 – 1835 was pictured. It was noted that the inscription on the slab remained very legible.

Oak Grave Marker Past Century Mark

¹⁹⁴⁸
Carving Still Legible After 113
Years on Birr Plot

BIRR, Sept. 13 — In a quiet section of Birr United Church Cemetery stands a simple marker identifying the last resting place of one of the district's pioneers who died 113 years ago. Its claim to distinction lies in the fact while the majority of other grave markers in the cemetery are of granite or marble this is a rugged slab of oak.

Simple in design, and with its inscription doubtlessly hand-carved on the head, it has weathered time and the elements remarkably well. The wording is still legible, "George McConnell, 1765-1835."

Although little is known of the man, older residents of the district are of the opinion he was an Englishman by birth and a former resident of nearby Elginfield.

Yesterday the grave which the sturdy piece of oak marks was decorated with a colorful bouquet of gladioli as part of an open air service in the cemetery conducted by Rev. Graydon Cox, Ilderton, pastor of the church. Scores attended the annual service as families of the community honored their dead with floral tributes.



Oak Grave Marker 113 Years Old