

**Name of memorial:** Kilcumney Hill Memorial

**Inventory No. 586**

**Place:** Summit of Kilcumney Hill.

**Address and map reference:** Kilcumney Hill, Co. Carlow. Map reference: S 7059 5370 (Sheet 68)

**Position:** At roadside at the summit of the hill.

**Description and dimensions:** Height: Boulder: 160cms. Plaque height: 100cms, width: 100cms.

**Recorded by:** Michael Dolan, June, 2009.

Text:  
(Boulder)

**TO THE MEMORY OF  
THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
IN THIS AREA IN 1798.**

—  
**Τόξαθη αν λεacht seo  
i scuimhne orthu síúo  
A FUAIR bás  
sa dúiche seo i 1798.**

(Plaque)

**FOLLOWING THE FAILURE OF THEIR HEROIC CAMPAIGN IN THE MIDLANDS, THE REBEL ARMY, LED BY FR. JOHN MURPHY AND MILES BYRNE, SET UP CAMP HERE FOR THE FINAL TIME LATE ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1798. IN THE EARLY MORNING OF JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>, THE CAMP WAS BESIEGED BY THE FORCES OF GENERAL CHARLES ASGILL AND MAJOR GEORGE MATTHEWS. WEARY FROM A MONTHS MARCHING AND FIGHTING AND WEAKENED BY THE DESERTION OF THE MIDLANDS RECRUITS, THE INSURGENTS MADE ONE HOURS DESPERATE STAND BEFORE FR. MURPHY GAVE THE ORDER TO RETREAT TOWARDS SCOLLAGH GAP.**

**THERE THE INSURGENT ADVANCE PARTY OVERCAME THE CAVALRY OF GENERAL LAKE. HOWEVER, MANY OF THEIR EXHAUSTED COMRADES HAD BECOME SEPARATED FROM THE MAIN PARTY. THE MANY NAMELESS GRAVES BETWEEN KILCUMNEY AND THE BLACKSTAIRS MOUNTAINS BEAR TESTIMONY TO THEIR FATE.**

**IN PURSUIT OF THE REBEL ARMY THE FORCES OF CHARLES ASGILL WREAKED VENGEANCE ON THE AREA, KILLING UPWARDS OF 140 INNOCENT INHABITANTS.**

**KILCUMNEY HILL WAS THE FINAL ENGAGEMENT OF FR. JOHN MURPHY'S REBEL ARMY. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED AND WAS EXECUTED AT TULLOW ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 1798.**