

Name of memorial: Paud O'Donoghue 1798 Memorial

Inventory No. 1313

Place: Crickstown

Address and map reference: Curragha Road, Crickstown, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.

Map reference: O 032 555 (Sheet 43).

Co-ordinates: N 53.5402°; W 6.4430°.

Access: at all times. **Parking:** adjacent. **Disabled access:** yes.

Position: On green space at the crossroads of R 155 and L5016 at Curragha.

Description and dimensions: bronze statue of a blacksmith making a pike on an anvil.
Behind, a low wall with bronze panels bearing poetic inscriptions, and a metal fence. Outside is a panel recording the setting up of the memorial, its dedication and its construction, and another panel illustrating the history of the rebellion of 1798.

Recorded by: Edward Bourke 15 August 2020.

Text:

(Plaque on left)

SOUTH EAST MEATH

1798

BI CENTENARY COMMITTEE

REQUIEM FOR THE CROPPIES

The pockets of our greatcoats full of barley

No kitchens on the run, no striking camp

We moved quick and sudden in our own country.

The priest lay behind ditches with the tramp.

A people, hardly marching - on the hike -

We found new tactics happening each day:

We'd cut through reins and rider with the pike

and stampede cattle into infantry,

The retreat through hedges where cavalry
must be thrown
Until on Vinegar Hill, the final conclave
Terraced thousands died, shaking scythes at cannon.
The hillside blushed, soaked in our broken wave.
They buried us without shroud or coffin,
And in August the barley grew up out of the grave.

Seamus Heaney

(Central plaque)

1798 Páid O'Donoghue 1998

But Ninety-Eight's dark season came and Irish hearts were sore,
The pitch cap and triangle the patient folk outwore;
The blacksmith thought of Ireland and found he'd work to do
"I'll forge some steel for freedom." said Páid O' Donoghue.

Patrick Archer

(Plaque on right)

SOUTH EAST MEATH

1798

BI CENTENARY COMMITTEE

**From humble home in dead of night
A flitting shadow fled
A yellow moon caught sharpened pike,
Where the night shades danced and played.**

**A bramble clawed at trembling hand,
And a night owl watched unseen,
Through bog and glen a United man
Marched out to win a dream.**

**Cold black water lashed and splashed,
And played around a tattered reed,
By dying fire a woman prayed
that the Gael might but succeed.**

**The silver nails of a rugged boot
Scarred a lonely lifeless stone,
Cross rambling hill he marched afoot
To fight along with Tone.**

Bobby Sands

(Separate plaque on the railings)

SOUTH EAST MEATH

1798

BI CENTENARY COMMITTEE

Unveiled by Ms Una O'Connor on 23rd May 1998.

Blessed by

Very Rev. Fr. Joseph Garvey P.P. Curraha.

Very Rev. John Clarke, Navan Union of Parishes.

Very Rev. Robin McDermott, Minister Christchurch, Sandymount.

Craftsmen

Gerry Buckley...An Doire Ghlas, Duleek.

Paddy Shiels...Garballagh, Duleek.

Brendan Carolan...Gillinstown, Duleek.

Shay Reynolds...Follistown, Navan.

Teddy O'Reilly... The Rath, Ardcath.

Tony O'Rourke... Hedge Road, Garristown.

Main sponsor

PERRI CRISPS, KILBREW, ASHBOURNE

Other sponsors: Goodwins Bld. Suppliers, Ashbourne.

Ashbourne Tool Hire.

Curraha G.F.C.

Patsy & Mary Swan, Curraha.

Pat Shiel Plant Hire, Duleek.

Meath Co. Council

Trustees, National Graves Association

in Trust for the people of Ireland.