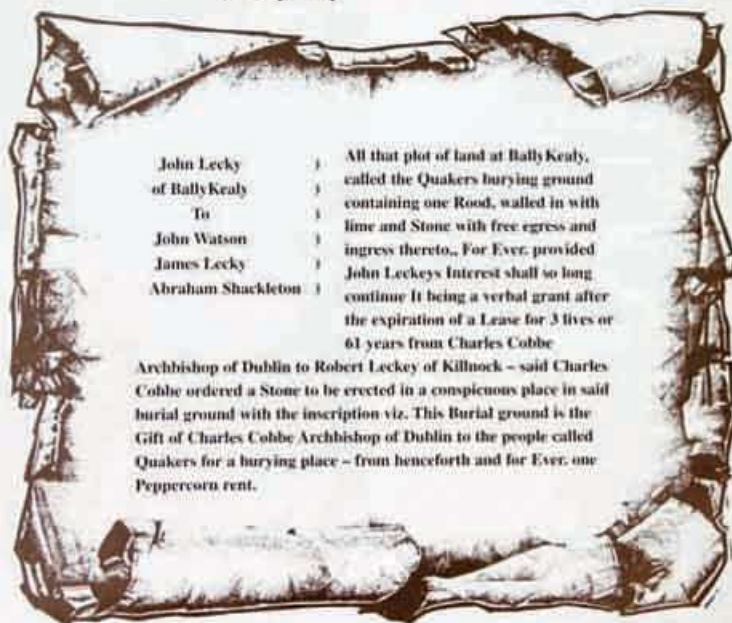


## Quaker Graveyard (1694 - c.1867)

Reproduced below is a copy of the original lease of the old Quaker Graveyard at Ballykealey



John Lecky of Ballykealey To John Watson James Lecky Abraham Shackleton

All that plot of land at Ballykealey, called the Quakers burying ground containing one Rood, walled in with lime and Stone with free egress and ingress thereto., For Ever, provided John Leckys Interest shall so long continue It being a verbal grant after the expiration of a Lease for 3 lives or 61 years from Charles Cobbe Archbishop of Dublin to Robert Lecky of Killnock - said Charles Cobbe ordered a Stone to be erected in a conspicuous place in said burial ground with the inscription viz. This Burial ground is the Gift of Charles Cobbe Archbishop of Dublin to the people called Quakers for a burying place - from henceforth and for Ever, one Peppercorn rent.

The first burial here was of 4 month old Robert Lecky in 1694 the 11th child of Robert and Mary Lecky who were the first of five generations to hold the Lecky seat at Ballykealey

Originally the Lecky family were Quakers which explains why twenty-six members of the family are known to be interred in this graveyard.

However, in the late 1800's the Leckys became members of the Church of Ireland and this explains why the old Quaker graveyard was replaced by the new Lecky private graveyard which then became their place of rest.

It is pertinent to note here that the Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) forbids war and strife.

The Leckys change of religion thus facilitated the family to join in British Military affairs. Several members of the family perished in both world wars.

It is not possible to identify the graves as it was not the custom at the time to erect headstones for the twenty-six members of the Lecky family buried here.

Apart from the Leckys other Quakers have also been interred here.

George Fox  
1624 - 1691



*"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fighting with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; this is our testimony to the whole world"*  
George Fox, Quaker - Founder of the Movement

## Lecky Family Graveyard (1895 - )

The Lecky family originated in Scotland and Robert Lecky, in the mid 1600s, was the first in a long line of five generations to hold the Lecky seat at Ballykealey. In the 1800s the family owned almost 1500 acres surrounding Ballon village. Originally Quakers, the Lecky's were involved in local politics as well as the judiciary.

The noted historian and politician W.E.H. Lecky (1838 to 1903) was a cousin of the Ballykealey landlords. Trinity College, Dublin, created the Chair of Modern History in 1913 in his honour.



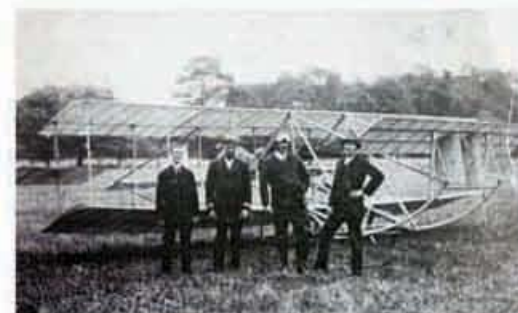
Col. Rupert Lecky was the last of the family to hold the seat at Ballykealey. The estate was bought by the Irish Land Commission in 1953.

The first burial in the new Lecky graveyard (consecrated in 1880) was that of 90 year old Sarah Lucia Lecky who died in 1895 and for whom Ballykealey House was built in 1830 to the design of Thomas Cobden who also designed Carlow Cathedral & College.

The last burial here, in 1950 was of Edith Lecky age 83 and before that in 1942 of 34 year old Molly Grace (nee Lecky), a section officer in the W.A.A.F. who was killed flying her plane in World War Two.



Molly Lecky



John Lecky, who inherited the seat in 1908, built an aeroplane and is pictured here circa 1912



Family crest and motto

*"Always prepared, virtue endures beyond the grave"*



Bronze Age Burial urns discovered in a dig 1852 to '54 by John Lecky on Ballon Hill



Family photograph circa 1953 shortly before moving to England

In 2003 the Lecky family unveiled a plaque to their father and grandfather, Col. Rupert Lecky and to their mother and grandmother Margaret Camilla Lecky (nee Finlay). The ashes of their brother, father and uncle, Jasper Lecky were scattered in the graveyard at that time after a simple Quaker ceremony.