**CAPTAIN CASEMENT’S GRAVE IN BALLYMENA**

Date: Mon, 15 Sep 2014 06:43:42 +0100
Subject: Re: Roger Casement's grave
From: hughcasement@gmail.com
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

Jeff,

The stone is not in very good condition, but if you display the attached full-screen you should be able to make out the words. I might have done better to use fill-in flash -- though cameras these
days, like computers, treat the user as an idiot so the flash probably wouldn't have fired in broad daylight.

I wish you'd persuade the City to take on a few traffic wardens. People park with impunity on yellow lines, in bus lanes and dedicated cycle lanes, in spaces reserved for the disabled, and on the zigzag lines before and after zebra crossings (which were put there for a purpose, not just for decoration). Apparently the police are no longer allowed to issue tickets -- presumably the doing of the Minister for the Stifling of Regional Development. I see no sense in traffic wardens having more powers than the police, especially when there are about four of them altogether in Belfast. As things are, a warden could bring in enough money in fines in one day to pay his salary for a month.

 ........... Hugh

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
To: hugh.casement@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Roger Casement's grave
Date: Sun, 14 Sep 2014 23:29:20 +0100

Hugh
Thanks for confirming the Captain's grave site and other matters.
It is not clear from your email whether the white stone has any writing on it.
I had noted this from somewhere:

**Father’s gravestone inscription in New Cemetery, Ballymena**

Detail obtained on inspection by Travers King and sent to Bulmer Hobson in 1931.

"In Memory of Captain Roger Casement late of the 3rd Dragoons who departed this life 26th May 1877 age 59 years"

Was there any trace of these words present?

You'll have to come and see me in City Hall now I am elected so I can give you a personal tour.
Best
Jeff

Date: Tue, 9 Sep 2014 19:03:39 +0100
Subject: Roger Casement's grave
From: hugh.casement@googlemail.com
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

 Jeff,
 On a couple of earlier visits to Ballymena cemetery I failed to find
 Roger Casement's grave and had more or less decided that he left only
 debts and no relative was prepared to put up the money for a memorial
 -- or else that you were mistaken and he was buried somewhere else.

 Then a couple of weeks ago I was in the council offices and the
 registrar kindly searched the records for me. Yes, she said,
 Cushendall Road, section BIX, plot 2. However, it was uncertain what
 that meant as the sections are normally designated by a letter and a
 number. Possibly Roman 9.

 This morning I was in Ballymena cemetery again and found the
 superintendent or his deputy. We searched all through the B sections
 in the book: nobody by the name of Casement. But it was suspicious
 that the entry for B9, plot 2, is a blank line. We went over to have
 a look, and after a bit of a search I found it. In case you want to
 look for yourself, you go behind the cottage by the entrance gate and
 strike out towards the reddish marble obelisk. It's a white stone
 just before the path that runs close to the north wall of the
 cemetery.

 The graves in the old churchyard off Church Street are in a sorry
 state. Evidently vandals have been able to climb in over the wall and
 have toppled numerous stones, smashing a fair number of them. I found
 two Harrison graves near the building in the middle (a chapel or
 whatever) but there was no sign of any Casements. Wish I'd been more
 thorough about photographing them 20 years ago, or even in the 1960s.

 However, after a visit to the public library I now know where Ballee
 House was. Not, I think, quite where the Camphill care centre now
 stands but a wee bit to the south, on the road named Kirkwood Manor
 (54°51'08"N, 6°16'38"W). The gate lodge would have been further
 north, on the Toome Road and possibly at the present entrance to the
 Paisley Memorial Church.

 Donal Connon maintained it was the house called Belleville that was
 later in his family, on the other side of the Antrim Road. Admittedly
 the names Casement and Pottinger occur in the deeds, but then Thomas
 Casement probably owned most of the townland of Ballee at one time.
 The 1932 OS map shows both houses, clearly named -- and hardly any
 other buildings around.

 There are two contenders for Ballee Cottage, where Francis Casement
 lived before Brocklamont. One is a bit further down the Old Antrim
 Road, about half way from Ballee House to where the road joins the
 newer Antrim Road (I think about 54°51'05"N, 6°16'34"W). The other is
 along the Toome Road, after it goes under the railway line
 (54°50'48"N, 6°17'23"W), about where a church is marked on the map:
 from the train it looks more like a warehouse but proclaims in capital
 letters that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

 Brocklamont House may still be standing: I didn't cycle out that way
 to see. It's on the south side of the Old Galgorm Road, shortly after
 it branches off the newer Galgorm Road (54°51'42"N, 6°17'31"W) and
 more or less opposite the house called Prospect.

 Ballymena public library is no longer in Demesne Avenue (where it's
 still shown on street plans) but in a new building in Pat's Brae, the
 continuation to the SW of Wellington Street -- or the continuation to
 the NE of Waveney Avenue and Galgorm Street. The one-way system in
 B'mena being what it is, there's no guarantee you can reach it from
 any of those streets, except on foot.

 The town hall, known as The Braid, is in Bridge Street, which is the
 section of road linking Waveney Road to the SW and Church Street to
 the NE. That's where one borrows the key to the old churchyard.
 There's also a museum there, but I've not looked at it yet.
 Incidentally, I always thought Braid (also the name of the river) is
 pronounced brad, but I notice people tend to say bréd as in ribbon.
 Possibly it should be braad: not in the Place Names book I have, which
 covers only the Barony of Toome.

 Between the library and the town hall runs Linenhall Street, formerly
 Shambles Street, where Thomas Casement had his office. That may also
 have been the office of his father Roger before him. I had thought
 the lower end of Broughshane Street, but that turns out to be where
 Thomas' brother William lived: the one who apparently died at
 Magherintemple and is buried at Culfeightrin.

 ........... Hugh