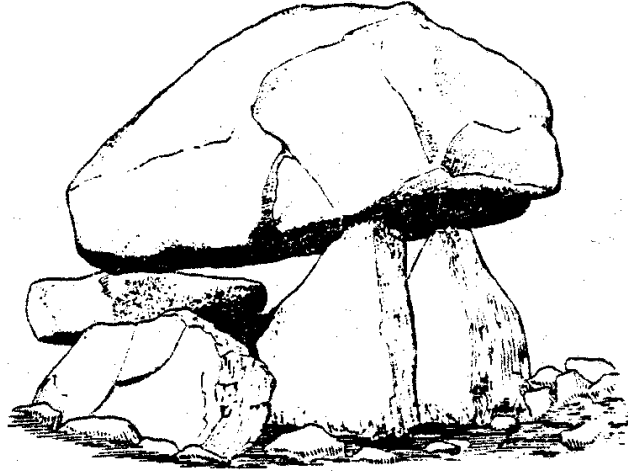


# ULSTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



**Supplement  
to  
Survey Report No. 5**

**History of the Occupants  
of  
Greenhill, Annahilt**

In association with



**Ian Gillespie**

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

© Ulster Archaeological Society  
First published 2007

Ulster Archaeological Society  
c/o School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology  
The Queen's University of Belfast  
42 Fitzwilliam Street  
Belfast  
BT9 6AX

## Supplement

### History of the Occupants of Greenhill

As previously discussed the early cartographic evidence would suggest that the Erwin (or Irvine) family owned Greenhill as early as 1800 although farm buildings are not recorded until 1830.

It is also apparent that during this period the boundary between the Erwin land and their neighbours the Garrets has moved slightly in favour of the Erwins (see figures 11a and 11b on page 10) – possibly to facilitate building of the original farmhouse.

The Irvine family burial plot in the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt records the earliest occupants of Greenhill as William (1781 – 1856) and Phoebe (1771 – 1836) Irvine.

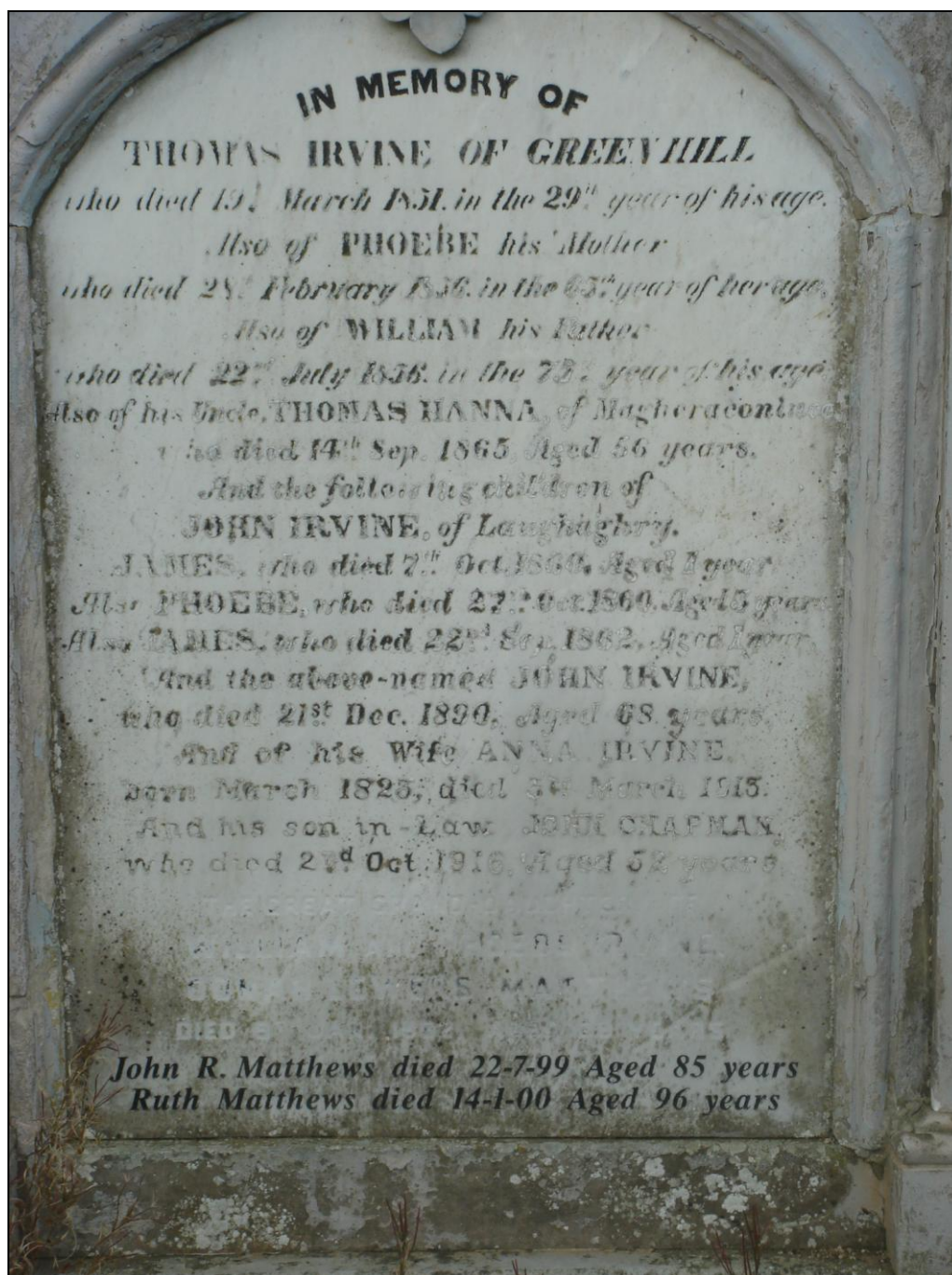


Figure S1: Irvine/Matthews Gravestone – see page S3 for transcript

**Transcript of Irvine-Matthews Headstone in Church of the Ascension Annahilt**

In Memory of

THOMAS IRVINE OF GREENHILL

Who died 19<sup>th</sup> March 1851 in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of his age

Also of PHOEBE his Mother

Who died 28<sup>th</sup> February 1836 in the 65<sup>th</sup> year of her age

Also of WILLIAM his Father

Who died 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1856 in the 75<sup>th</sup> year of his age

Also of his Uncle THOMAS HANNA of Magheraconluce

Who died 14<sup>th</sup> September 1865 Aged 56 years

And the following children of

JOHN IRVINE of Laughaghry.

JAMES who died 7<sup>th</sup> October 1860 Aged 1 year

Also PHOBE who died 27<sup>th</sup> October 1860 Aged 13 years

Also JAMES who died 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep 1862 Aged 1 year

And the above named John Irvine

Who died 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 1890, Aged 68 years

And of his wife ANNA IRVINE

born March 1825, died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1913

And his son in – Law JOHN CHAPMAN

who died 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 1916 Aged 52 years

THE GREAT GRAND DAUGHTERS OF

WILLIAM AND PHOEBE IRVINE

OONAGH LEWERS MATTHEWS

DIED 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1992 AGED 89 YEARS

John R. Matthews died 22-7-99 Aged 85 years

Ruth Matthews died 14-1-00 Aged 96 years



The following information was supplied by William Beatty during the course of an interview in August 2007.

Greenhill was bought by James Matthews (1816 – 1900) from the Irvine family following his marriage to Sarah Irvine (1818 – 1905) in or about 1843, and the subsequent death of her parents William and Phoebe Irvine in 1856. Greenhill had been Sarah's childhood home.

James was the last of five children born to John Matthews (1771 – 1817) of Magheraconluce townland. John had married a Scottish woman, Ms Frazer, who had fled Scotland to escape Charles III. John perished in a blizzard the year after James was born.

James and Sarah Matthews had ten children, Phoebe (1842-67), John (1845-85), Alicia (1846-1925), Sarah (1849-1934), Eliza (?-1884), Lizzie (1853-1932), Thomas (1854-1935), William (1858-1935) and the last two, who were born in Greenhill, – Maggie (1860-1944) and Abram (1863-1944). Neither of these last two children married.

The Matthews burial plot is at Annahilt Presbyterian Church, Ballykeel, Ednagonnell (J267581).



Figure S2 Matthews' Gravestone

The 1901 Census records the occupants of Greenhill on the night of the survey to be: Head of household Sarah (widow, 82) farmer, Sarah (daughter, 51) farmer's daughter and Abram (son, 37) retired shirt manufacturer.

Sarah Irvine died in 1905 leaving Sarah junior and Abram (and possibly Margaret) in residence. Sarah died in 1934 and, ten years later, both Abram and Margaret died within 4 days of each other. Ownership of Greenhill passed from Abram to Margaret and thence to Oonagh who was living and working in Freckleton with her sister Ruth who was her housekeeper (personal communication Rosemary McCormick).

## Irvine-Matthews Family Tree

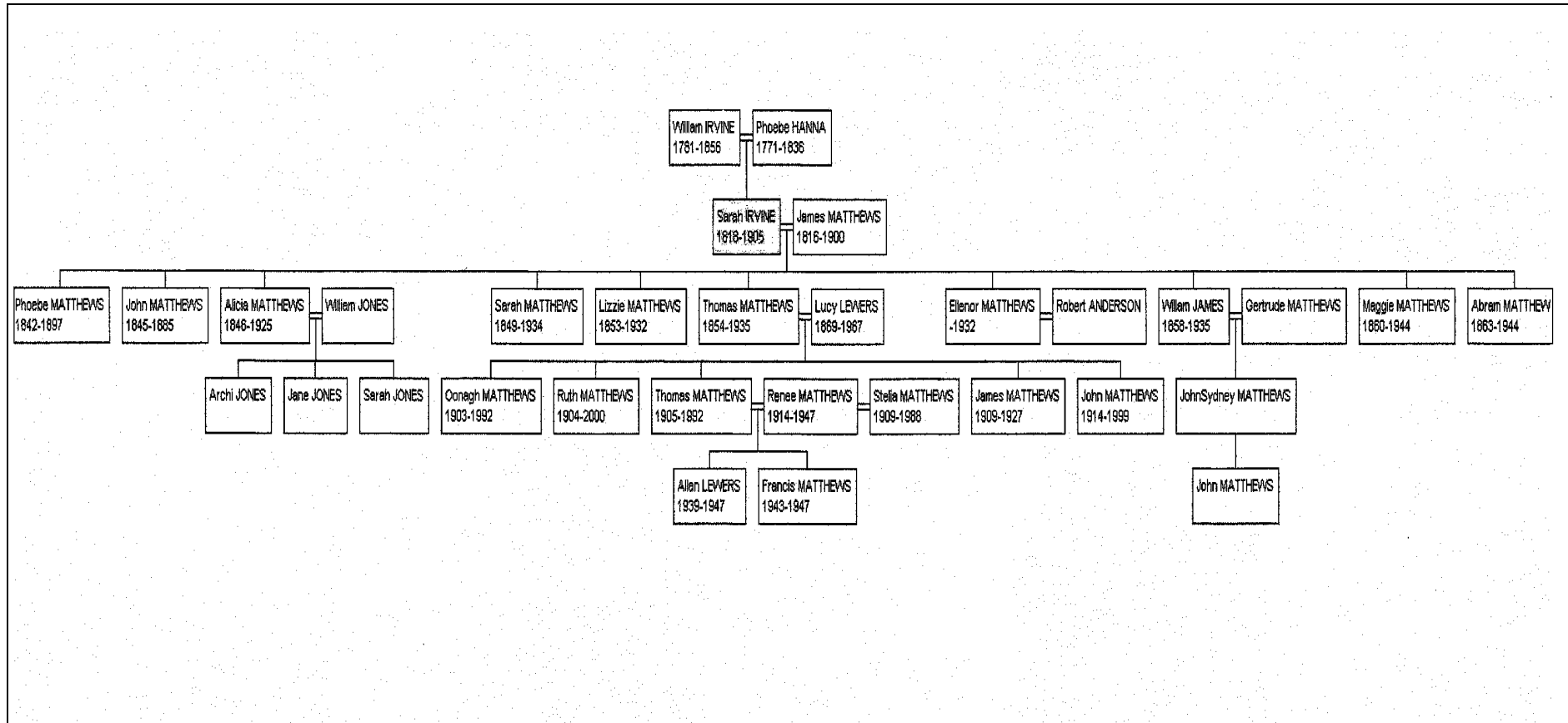


Figure S3: Irvine-Matthews family tree

Greenhill remained unoccupied after the war. Oonagh had begun construction of a new house after the war although this remained at the foundations stage for many years (personal communication Rosemary McCormick).. Oonagh and Ruth eventually moved from England into the new Greenhill farmhouse in or around 1979. The approximate position of the original farmhouse is shown on the following diagram:

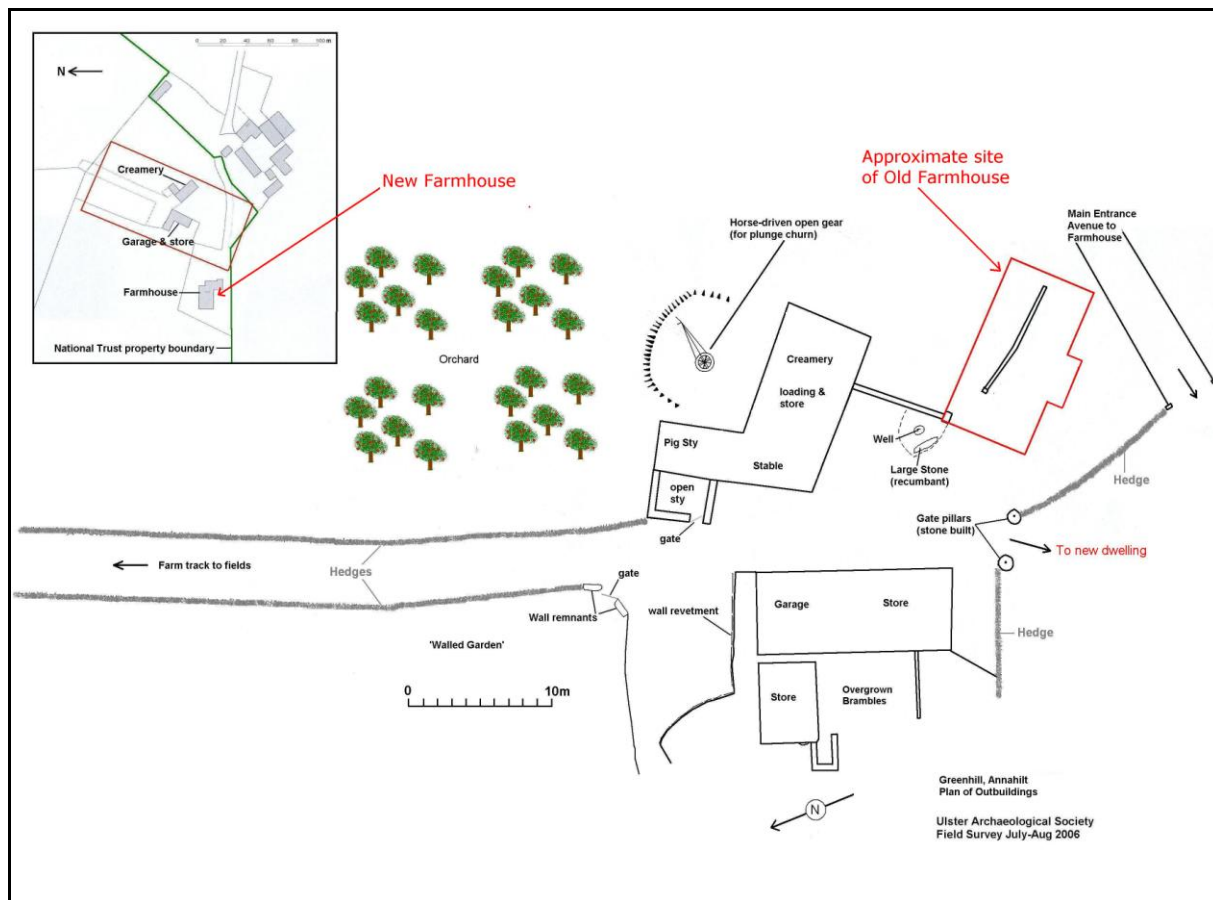


Figure S4: Approximate location of original farmhouse

Oonagh, in her Will drawn up in October 1991, bequeathed Greenhill to the National Trust:

“I devise my farm “Greenhill” Ballylintagh, Hillsborough aforesaid to the National Trust of 36 Queen Anne’s Gate, London SW1H 9AS for the particular benefit of the trust’s Northern Ireland region”.

Following Oonagh’s death on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1992 Ruth continued to live in Greenhill until just before her death on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2000. Probate was granted on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1995. The National Trust took ownership on 17th June 1997, and they are currently letting the farmland and farmhouse.

### Oonagh Lewers Matthews’ Ancestors.

Oonagh Matthews was the daughter of Thomas Matthews, James and Sarah’s sixth child. Thomas Matthews graduated in Medicine and moved to New South Wales Australia where he met and married Lucy Kathleen Lewers. Oonagh was born in Australia. She was the oldest of five siblings – Oonagh b1903, Ruth b1904, Thomas jnr b1905, James Lewers b1909, and John Ross b1914. The family returned to Mount Pleasant, Belfast and subsequently relocated to Freckleton near Preston in Lancashire where Thomas snr and, later, Oonagh worked as General Practitioners.



## Matthews-Lewers Family Tree

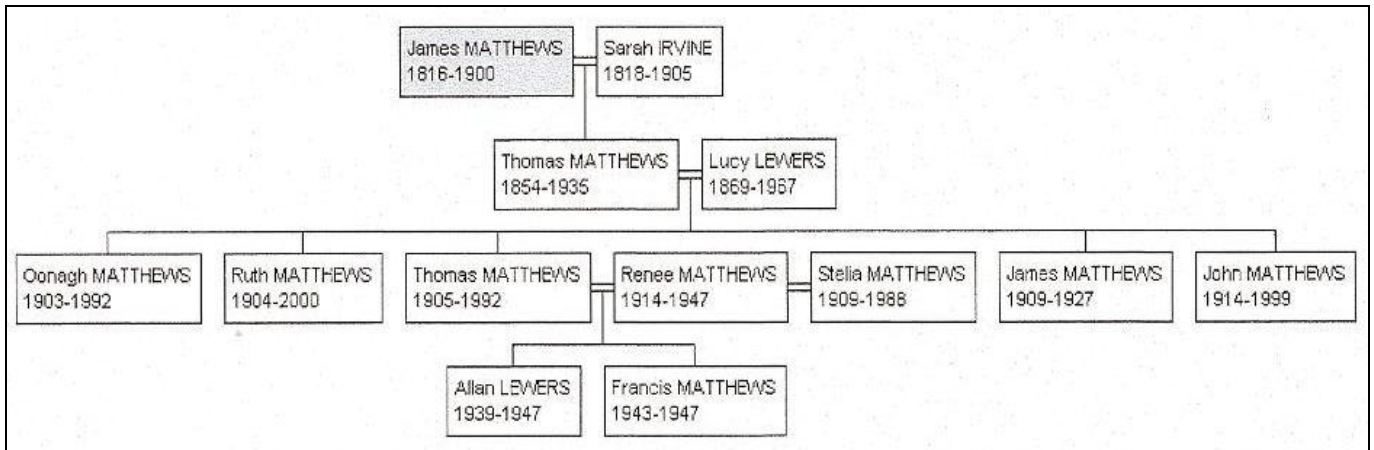


Figure S5: Matthews-Lewers family tree

Thomas jnr moved to Barranquilla Colombia some years before the Second World War. He was the Auditor and acting manager of the Barranquilla Telephone Company. He married a local girl, Renee. They had two sons, Allan Lewers and Francis Ian. Tragically, Renee and their two sons were

**LOST WIFE AND CHILDREN IN PLANE CRASH**  
**MR THOMAS MATTHEWS,**  
 who lost his wife and two sons - Allen Lewis, aged nine, and Francis Ian aged four - in the air crash near Bogota, Colombia, on Sunday belongs to Freckleton.  
 Auditor and acting manager of the Barranquilla Telephone Co., he went out to Colombia some years before the war. He is a brother of Dr. Miss O. L. Matthews, of Kirkham-road, Freckleton.

**Preston Guardian 23/2/1947**

killed on 15th February 1947 when the Douglas DC4 airplane they were travelling in between Barranquilla and Bogotá crashed into Mt El Tabalazo at 10,500 feet in fog. Allan was 8 years 11 months and Francis was 3 years 7 months. The deaths are recorded on a gravestone at Holy Trinity church in Freckleton Lancashire, although they are not buried here.

Thomas jnr subsequently married Renee's sister Stelia. They had no further children, and eventually settled in Portugal (personal communication, Rosemary McCormick).

Oonagh retired to the family home at Greenhill, probably after her retirement in the 1970's. She lived there with her sister Ruth. At some stage Oonagh demolished the original farmhouse and constructed a new house away from the farm buildings.



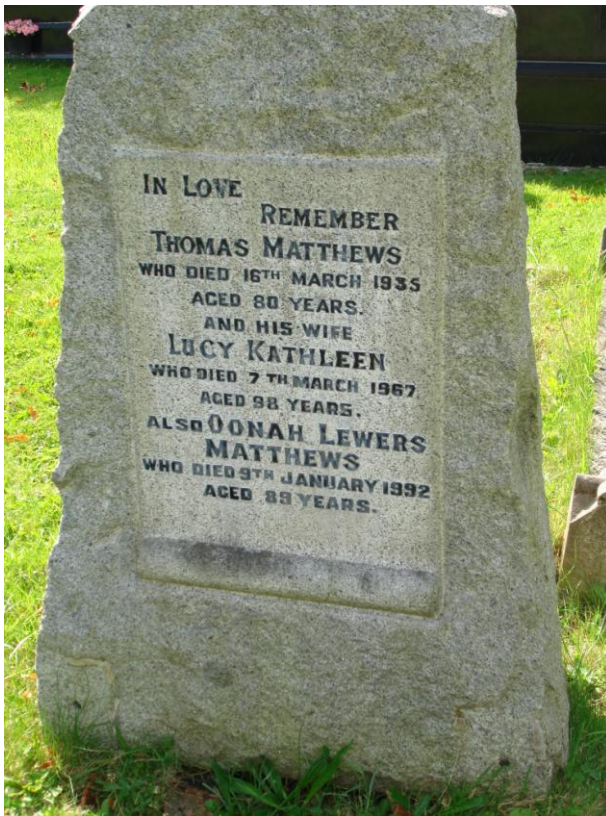


Figure S6 Matthews' Graves in Holy Trinity C of E at Freckleton, Lancashire

Oonagh died in 1992 aged 89 years and Ruth died in 2000 aged 96. They are buried in the Irvine burial plot at the Church of the Ascension, Annahilt together with the remains of their brother John who died in England in 1999.

None of them had married, and on their death Greenhill was bequeathed to the National Trust.