



UNEARTH DERVOCK HERITAGE TRAIL

OUR LOCAL LANDMARKS AND THE
STORIES BEHIND THEM

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INTRODUCTION

Dervock and district has a history dating back to earliest times. There is evidence of Stone Age people living here up to 10,000 years ago, with finds of flints at Lisconnan and Urbal from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. A large, carved stone discovered at Derrykeighan, dating from the Iron Age shows how important our district was before the arrival of Christianity; an early church was founded there over 1500 years ago by St Colman.

Dervock is believed to have grown around a mill on the River Bush which runs through the middle of the village. Farmers have worked the fertile fields for thousands of years, shaping the local landscape and harvesting peat from the once expansive Garry Bog to heat their homes and cook.

This guide will introduce you to our local landmarks and the stories around them. Many of the buildings you see today are the legacy of the landlords, such as the Macartneys of Lissanoure, who shaped Dervock and helped it to grow. The Macartney family were responsible for the Market House, the Inn and many old stone dwellings which improved the living conditions of their tenants. The old stone walls that still exist throughout the village are a constant reminder of the building work of Lord George Macartney - the leader of Britain's first diplomatic mission to China in 1793.



The fairs at Dervock were famous, especially for the horses which formed a large part of the trade. Linen was also traded at the fairs as many manufacturers had been encouraged to settle in the area.

The village of Dervock can catalogue a number of famous sons as diverse as Captain Charles Adair, who served on Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, and Kennedy Kane McArthur, who won gold at the 1912 Olympic Games. It also boasts the ancestral home of William McKinley (25th President of America).

The War Memorial Institute, opened in July 1920, was, according to *Coleraine Chronicle*, the first to be erected in Ireland. Built at a cost of £2000, on a site gifted by Captain C.G. Macartney of Lissanoure, it comprised a main hall, sitting accommodation for upwards of 400 persons, together with large reading and recreation rooms, and a splendid kitchen. The current War Memorial Garden, dedicated on the 25th April 2015, features the original Rolls of Honour from the Institute.

The beautiful St Colman's Parish Church and the Allen and Adair Memorial Hall have added to our fascinating heritage and brought pride to our village. The central window in the Hall depicts the moment just before both Nelson and Adair were killed at Trafalgar. It was Captain Samuel Allen MC, the grand-nephew of Charles Adair, who built the Allen and Adair Hall in 1936 in memory of his parents' families. There are four places of worship in the village, St Colman's Church of Ireland Parish Church, the Church of Our Lady and St John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Dervock Presbyterian Church and Dervock Reformed Presbyterian Church; such is the diversity of the people of Dervock.

So please, pause for a while in Dervock and enjoy a walk around our sites of historic interest, places where you can learn about naval battles, executions and even an "indulgent landlord".



ALLEN AND ADAIR HALL

This is the parochial hall of Derrykeighan Parish Church. It was opened in September 1936 and presented to the village by Captain Samuel Allen MC. It commemorates two branches of his family - his father's ancestors, the Allens of Lisconnan, and his mother's, the Adairs of Ballymena. It contains a series of beautiful stained glass windows, the most impressive of which depicts Captain Charles William Adair RM, tragically killed at the Battle of Trafalgar. It is the only memorial of its kind on this island to remember this historic naval victory. Allen also paid for the building of a rectory and tennis courts beside the hall, both now gone.

Image courtesy: cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Kenneth Allen - geograph.org.uk/p/114840



DERRYKEIGHAN PARISH CHURCH

Derrykeighan Parish Church (St Colman's) was consecrated in 1831. It replaced the original place of worship in the nearby village of Derrykeighan which was built on a site which dated back to the early Christian period. The local landlord, George Hume Macartney (1793-1869), gifted the land to the church and the building was completed for £1,300, almost half of which was raised by public subscription. A vestry and church furnishings were some of the later improvements generously funded by Captain Samuel Allen MC during the 1930s.

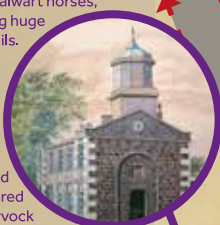
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THE MARKET HOUSE

The Market House was built in 1805 by Earl Macartney (1737-1806). Earl Macartney had ambitious plans to make Dervock a thriving commercial town. Local tradition tells us that busy market days and fairs during the Napoleonic period would attract cavalry officers looking for stalwart horses, and merchants buying huge lengths of linen for sails. In the 20th century, the Market House became a farmer's co-operative, employing over forty people. In later years it fell into disrepair and was completely restored in 2002 thanks to Dervock and District Limited Company. Image courtesy: Painting by T M Sinclair, 1907, Ballymoney Museum



GALLOW'S ISLAND

In 1801, a fight broke out in Dervock between a local man, Jimmy Stewart, and a soldier from a nearby garrison. Tragically, the soldier was mortally wounded and Jimmy was taken, probably without trial, to be executed on Gallows Island. Village folklore relates how Jimmy saw his waiting coffin resting beside the gallows and protested to his guards that it was too short. Poor Jimmy was proved right and this gave rise to the local saying "it's too short, just like Jimmy Stewart's coffin".

Image courtesy: Alex Blair Collection, Ballymoney Museum



THE WAR MEMORIAL

Dervock War Memorial Institute, one of the first in Ireland, was opened in 1920 in memory of the men from the district who had died in World War One. The building was demolished in the 1980s and the original Rolls of Honour, from both World Wars, were remounted on new stone plaques. The current War Memorial Garden was re-dedicated in 2015. Image courtesy: Dervock & District Community Association



THE MACARTNEY MEMORIAL

This water fountain was erected four years after the untimely death of the landlord George Travers Macartney (1830-1874) of Lissanoure. Macartney was much loved by his tenants who regarded him as "generous, courteous and considerate to all those who were dependent on him". As inscribed on this monument, the people of Dervock "deeply deplored his loss to them as an indulgent landlord and a kind friend." Image courtesy: Dervock & District Community Association



NORTH IRISH HORSE INN

This has been the site of an inn since the 18th century, said to have been established by an ex-soldier, Andrew Barry, in the aftermath of the 1798 Rebellion. Records also show that a licensed distillery was in business here for many years. The present building was constructed as part of Earl Macartney's grand plan to improve the village and it includes period features at the rear, such as a stable yard and coach houses.

Image courtesy: Dervock & District Community Association



Castlecat Road

Carncullagh Road



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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