

Welcoming visitors for generations

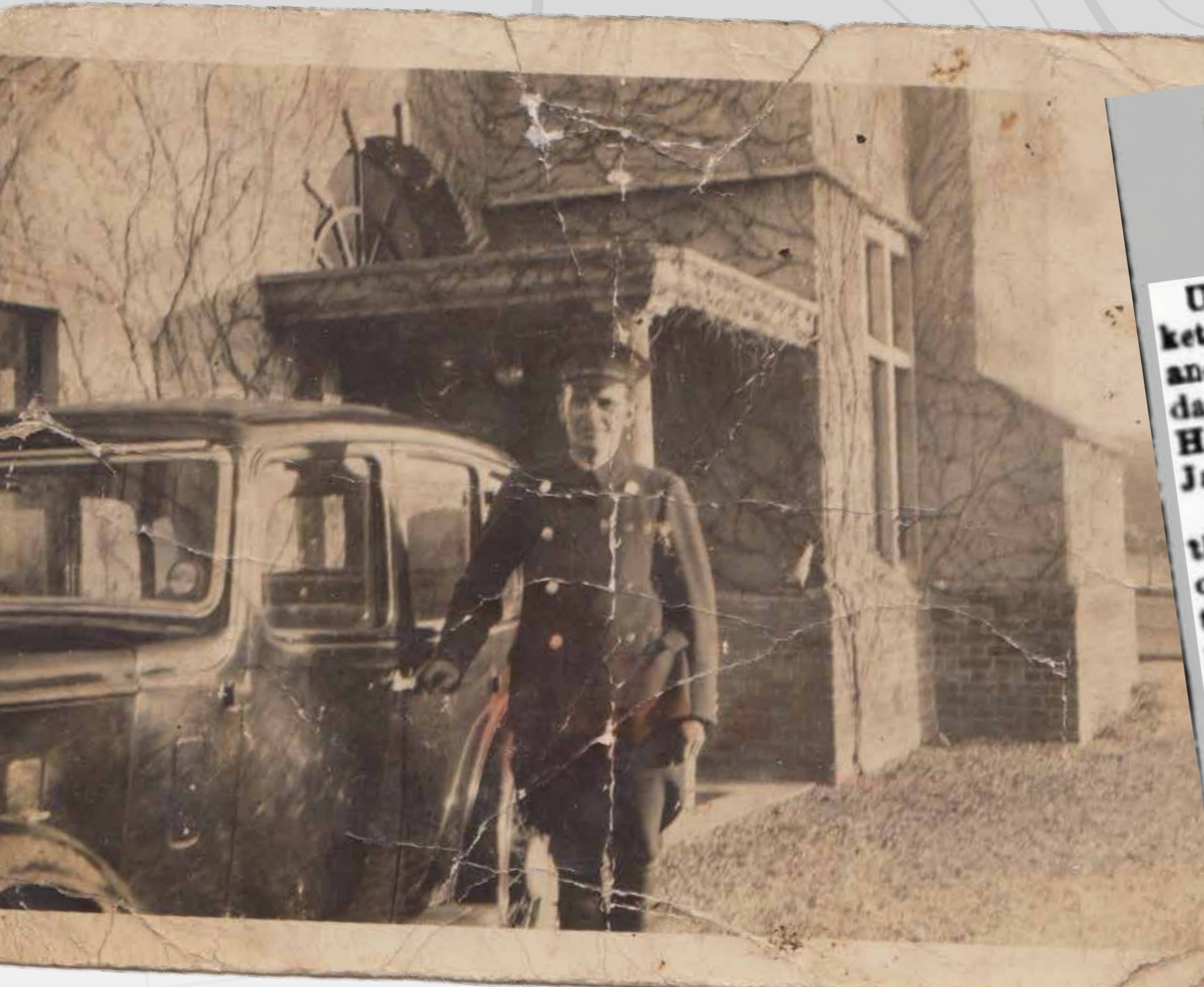
Countless visitors have enjoyed travelling to what is now the Causeway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. For over 200 years this world famous coastline has been popular with tourists from near and far. Tourism is an important aspect of the local economy, and has helped to shape this special landscape over many years.

LOCAL GUIDES AT THE GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

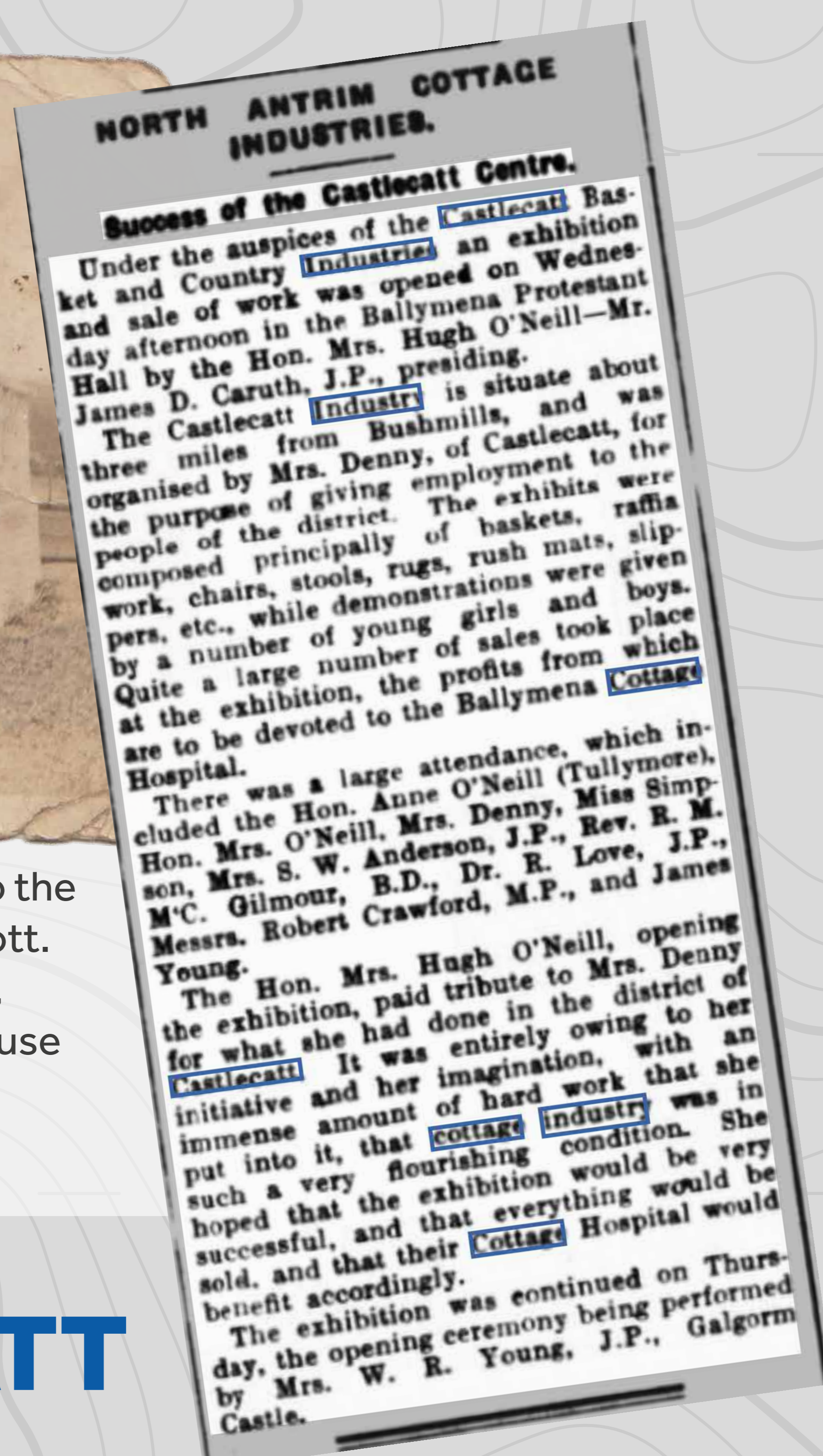
As more and more visitors began to travel to the Giant's Causeway a local tourism industry began to develop. The first Causeway Hotel was built in 1836 and Kane's Royal Hotel was built in the 1860s. Both hotels had tour guides associated with them, while locals often sold souvenirs to tourists at the Stones. These local guides would take tourists down to the Causeway, regaling them with tales and facts about what is now NI's only UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Local man Brian Bolt remembers the guides, pictured, from his childhood: (back) Robert Colvin, Jamie McMullan, John Colvin and (front) Johnny Martin and Johnny McLernon.



This photograph was kindly submitted to the Uncharted Histories Project by Frank Scott. It shows 'Aky' Walker in the 1920s or 30s, chauffeur to Mrs Denny of Ballylough House and the father of Frank's wife, Mrs Sarah Scott (née Walker).



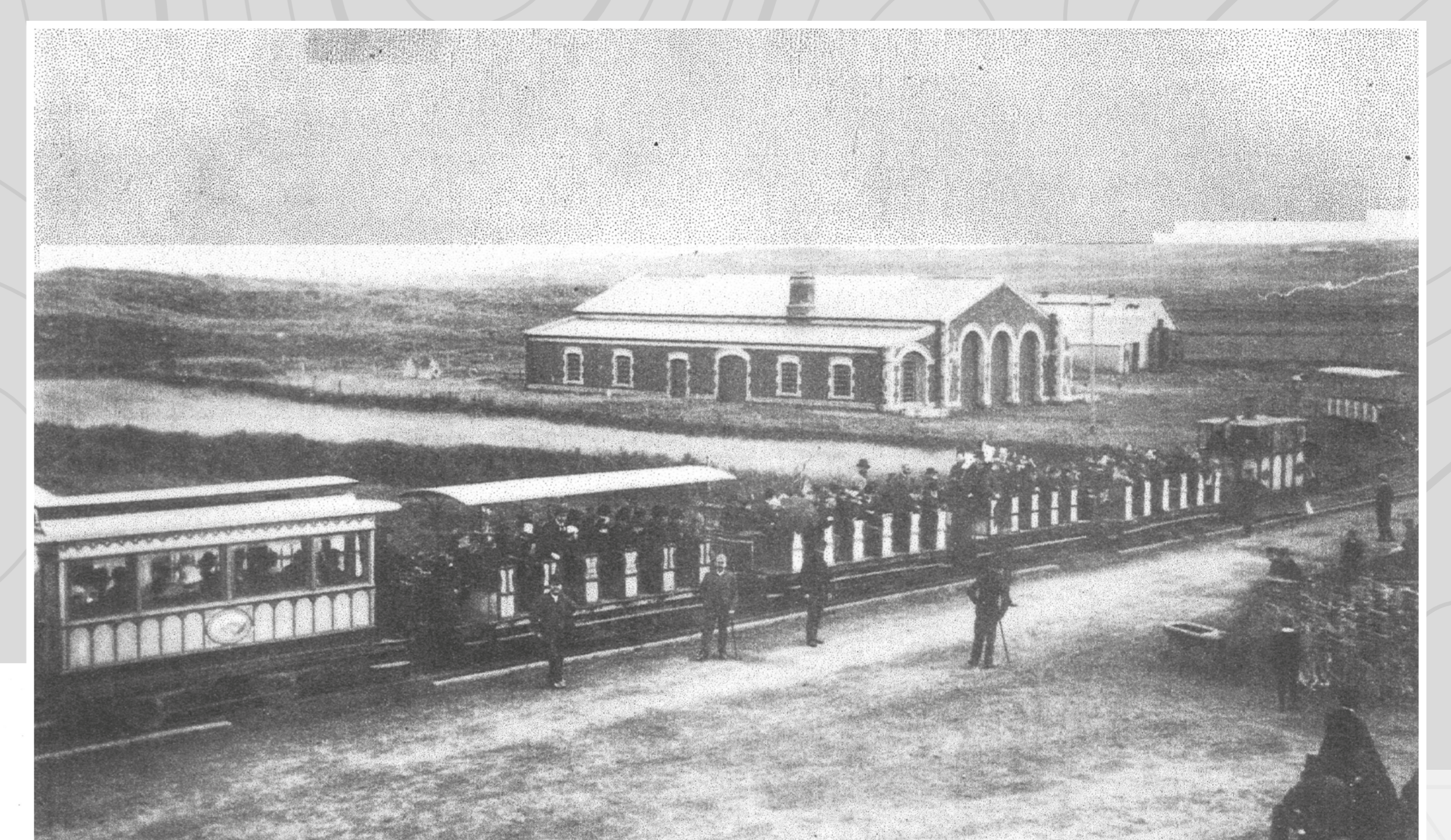
CASTLECATT COTTAGE INDUSTRY

In the early 20th century a small cottage industry, selling crafts to tourists, was established not far from Bushmills by Mrs Denny of Ballylough. Mrs Denny was a member of the Traill family and she founded the Castlecatt Cottage Industry to help provide employment to local people. Crafters worked together at The Basket House to produce a variety of crafts to be sold to tourists. Mrs Denny even sent apprentices to England to learn new skills and bring them back to the Causeway Coast. Today, the craft and artisan networks of the Causeway Coast follow in the footsteps of these earlier ventures, with many local businesses still supported by the area's thriving tourism industry.

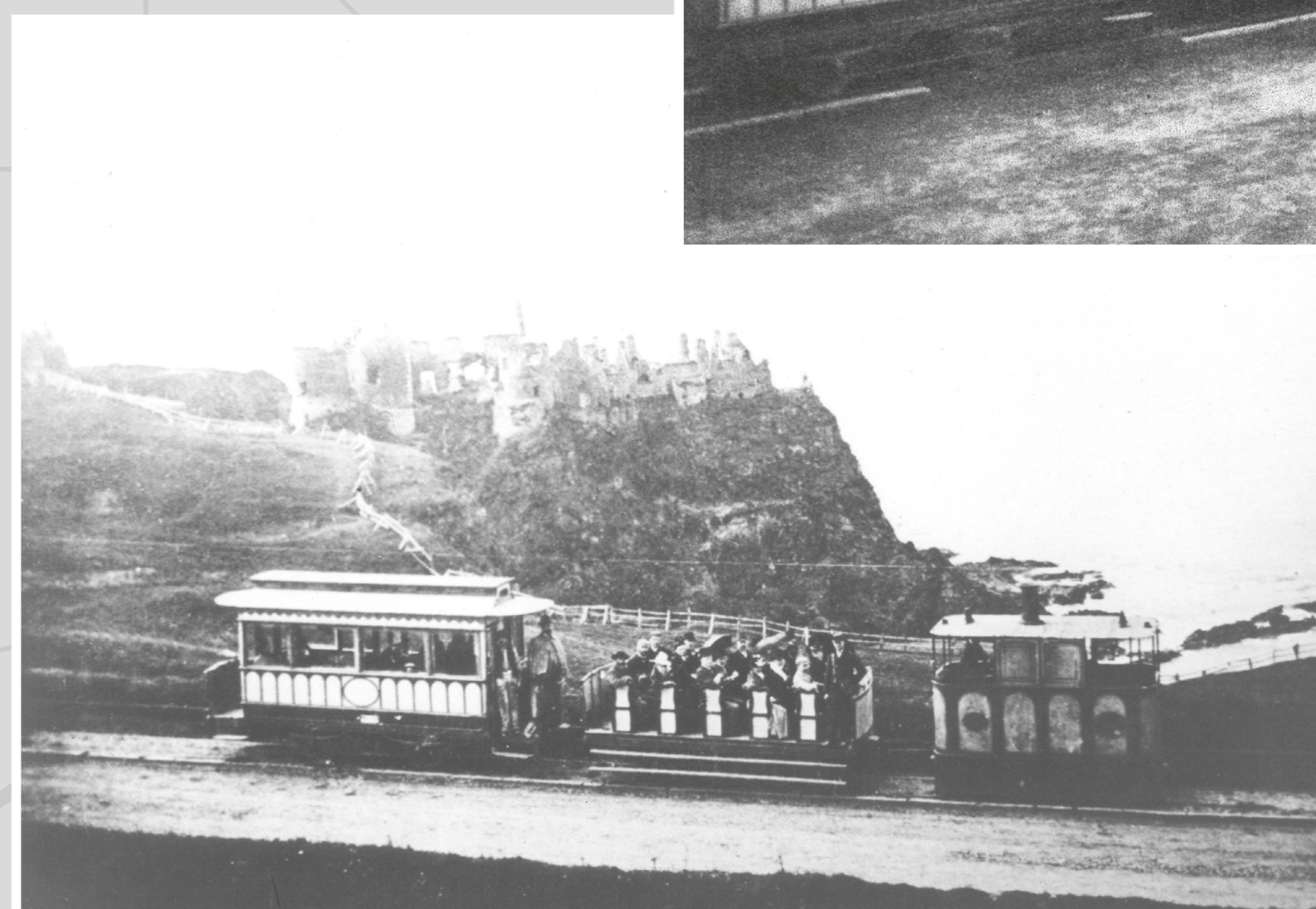
THE WORLD'S FIRST HYDROELECTRIC TRAMWAY

The expansion of railway networks from the 1850s supported the growth of tourism along the coast. The mainline railway to Portrush had been completed in 1855, and in the 1880s a cutting edge project extended transport links further.

Local engineer William Acheson Traill pioneered the use of electrical traction for the construction of a roadside tramway from Portrush to Bushmills by 1883, later extended to the Giant's Causeway in 1887. This was the world's first hydroelectric tramway, and was powered by a hydro-electric power station at Walkmills, Bushmills. It closed in 1949.



Images submitted to the Uncharted Histories of the Causeway Coast project by Maurice McCurdy.



Portrush Train Station, courtesy of John Moore

