



Torrent Valley Heritage Trail

Did you know?

The ancient parish of Donaghmore was for many years the "Lucht tigh" or demesne lands of the O'Neills of Dungannon. This means that the rents from Donaghmore parish went to the O'Neills to enable them to enjoy the lifestyle expected of a great Gaelic chief.

McKenzie's Brewery

McKenzie's Brewery in Donaghmore was one of the most famous in the country. Writing in his diary about the 1830's, James Brown of the Soapworks records, "The brewery was such a prosperous concern that I remember 28 carts loaded with beer and whiskey leaving it on a single morning.....At that time there were 5 public houses in Donaghmore and 2 at the Backford."

Donaghmore Court

James Brown also writes about the court held in Donaghmore. "There was then a court for the recovery of small debts called the Seneschal's Court which was held in Donnelly's public house (now McCausland's). Daniel McKenzie was the seneschal and he called a jury of 12 men to help him to adjudicate and it was said he looked under the table to see which men had brogues on, before deciding who should be foreman. The fees or costs were largely spent on drink for the good of the public house."

The Night of the Big Wind

People often dated events from the 'night of the big wind', which was January 5, 1839. James Brown records what happened that night in Donaghmore. "It unroofed the brewery coolers and did much damage elsewhere. When George Mullolland came to his work the next morning, they asked him how he 'put in the night', knowing that he had a thatched cottage. 'Oh, all right', said he, 'I just slept on the roof to keep it on.'"

John Wesley and Archbishop Plunket in Castlecaulfield

In the 1770's and 80's John Wesley preached three times on the village green and in the 1670's Archbishop Plunket celebrated Confirmation in the castle courtyard, with the express permission of the then Lord Charlemont.

The Rev. Charles Wolfe

The Rev. Charles Wolfe's poem, "The Burial of Sir John Moore after the Battle of Corunna" (1809) is one of the best known elegies in the English language. He was curate of St.

Michael's Church of Ireland in Castlecaulfield from 1818-1823 and was much loved by his congregation.

Charles Wolfe died from TB at the early age of 32 years, his death reputedly hastened by an unhappy love affair. He is buried at Cobb.

James Dilworth

James Dilworth who is renowned for establishing the Dilworth School for disadvantaged boys in Auckland, walked past Donaghmore High Cross on his way to the school behind the cross, every day. The young Dilworth was greatly impressed by the beauty of the cross.

Inspired by this, Dilworth School commissioned a similar High Cross, which was dedicated in 1995.

Dungannon Royal School has cultivated a close connection with the Dilworth School in Auckland over the past number of years, particularly since James Dilworth was a past pupil of the school.

Reverend George Walker

Rector of Donaghmore Parish, was the clergyman of "pious and immortal memory" who played a pivotal role in the Siege of Derry in 1689. He was killed at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690 and interred on the battlefield.

Several years later his remains were brought to his widow who reputedly paid the messenger £10 and some said £20. She had them deposited in St. Michael's Church and a memorial tablet inscribed.

Rev. Thomas Kennedy

Carlard Presbyterian Church was the earliest to be established in Tyrone. The first Presbyterian minister of Carlard, Rev. Thomas Kennedy was settled in the Parish Church of Donaghmore in 1646.

During the Presbyterian persecutions following the Restoration of Charles the Second, the Rev. Thomas Kennedy was ejected for non conformity in 1662. He operated from a log-cabin near Carlard Bridge in 1668. After the Revolution of 1688 he retired to Scotland but returned here and erected a house of worship in Carlard in 1693. The present church dates from 1859.

The Rev. Joseph Acheson

The Rev. Joseph Acheson was from Killycarron Co. Armagh. He became assistant minister of Castlecaulfield Presbyterian Church in 1833 and

was made minister in 1841. He was responsible for most of the fund raising for the building of the present church in the village which replaced the one at the Castle. It was built in 1843. He was such a well respected minister that the Acheson Hall in Castlecaulfield village (1908) was built in his memory. Rev. Joseph Acheson was married to Amelia Brown, a member of the famous Brown family of Donaghmore. Their son David along with a Mr Smith established a successful linen business at Castlecaulfield 1874.

Alexander Mackenzie
Alexander Mackenzie was resident at Mulligrue House from at least 1790. He was owner of the flourishing Donaghmore Brewery and milling business which prospered until the coming of the railway to Donaghmore in the early 1860s.

In 1796 Alexander Mackenzie constructed 88 well built houses in Donaghmore many of which still exist today. He remodelled Mulligrue House on more spacious lines, built and financed an infant school in the graveyard just behind the Old Cross and he was chiefly responsible for St. Patrick's Chapel of Ease, dedicated in 1843.

Frenchman's Lane

Frenchman's Lane in Castlecaulfield was part of the old highway from Dublin to Derry in the 17th century. King James the Second, accompanied by D'Avaux, the French Ambassador, along with 12,000 men, and a train of artillery travelled this road in 1689 on their way to the Siege of Derry. After their defeat at Derry, the French cavalry used this route to travel home. Since then, this narrow road has been known as Frenchman's Lane.

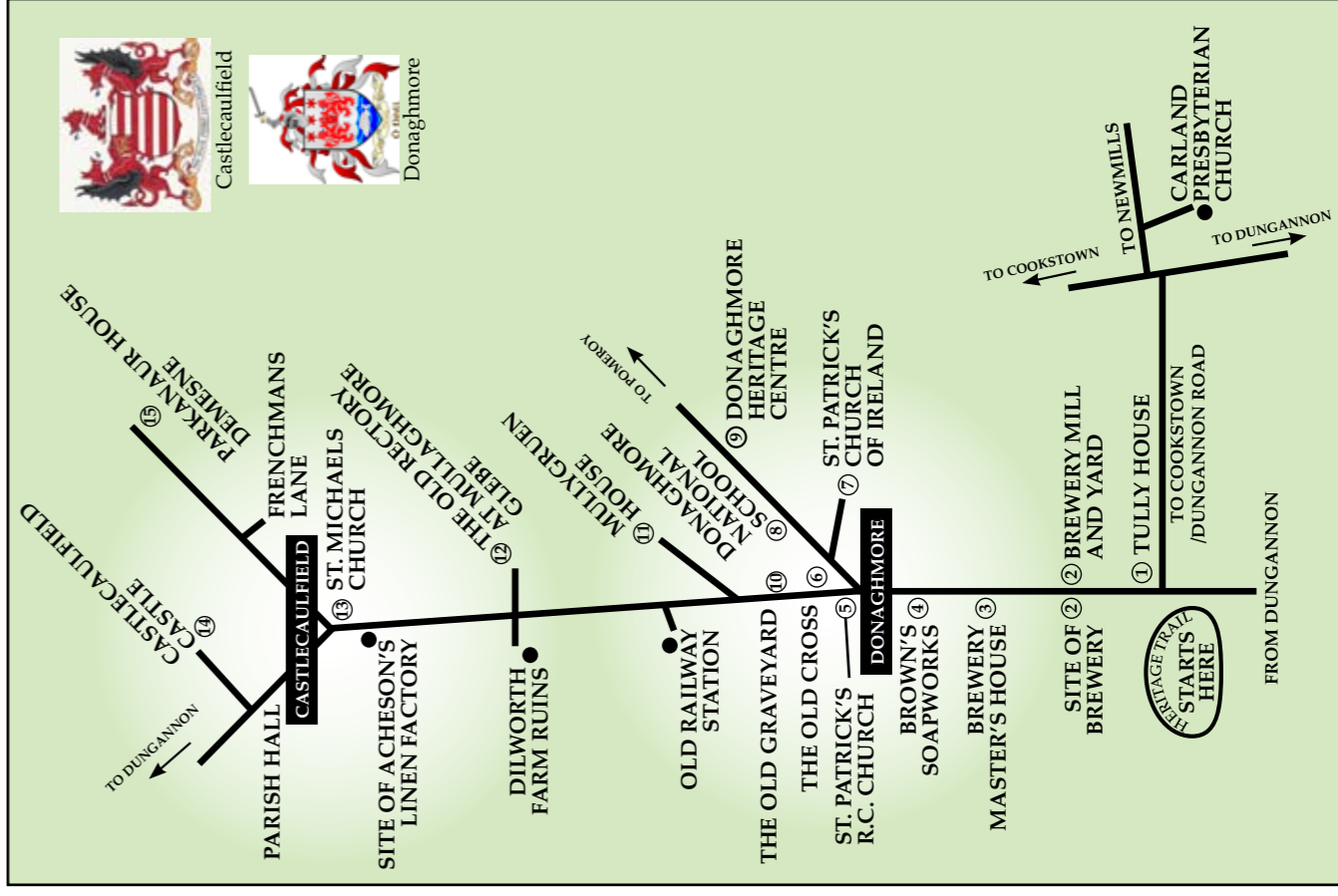
A few hundred yards up this road and to the left was Aughtlish Lough where the O'Donnellys had a crannog and fort.

Also to the left of this highway, in the townland of Terenceau was a Franciscan Friary, which was an outpost of the Dungannon Friary. It existed between the early 18th and 19th centuries. There are no traces of the Friary today.

Having enjoyed this trail,
why not sample

**Dungannon
Heritage Trail**

www.dungannonlife.com



Come find your way where others have gone for centuries before in Castlecaulfield & Donaghmore. A Torrent Valley welcome awaits as you sample the rich heritage & culture of these hidden gems.

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Killymaddy Tourist Information & Craft Centre

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January – June, September – December
Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
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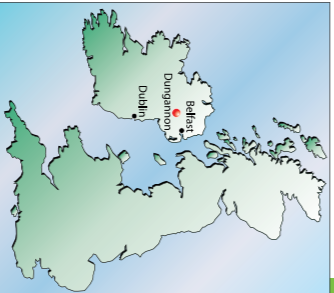
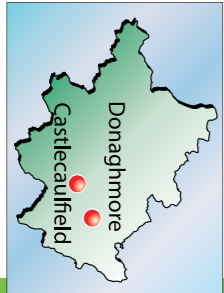
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Flavour
of TYRONE www.flavouroftyrone.com



1. Tully House



Tully House is one of oldest houses in Donaghmore. It was built in 1714 by Thomas Ker M.D. who had originally come from Scotland around 1688. His brother Andrew had settled in Co. Monaghan. As well as being a doctor Thomas Ker also leased several townlands in the Parish from Lord Charlemont. His daughter Anne married Henry Verner of Armagh whose son Thomas became a major landowner in Ireland. A number of Verner descendants had distinguished military and parliamentary careers and the family also had links to the Orange Order.

2. Donaghmore Brewery

The brewery at Donaghmore was founded by Alexander Mackenzie in 1797. Donaghmore Ale was a well known and respected product. Some whiskey was also produced. Across the road from the brewery was the cornmill where oats and barley were milled for brewing and distilling. The brewery flourished until the coming of the railway in 1861 when local markets were flooded by the larger breweries in Belfast and Dublin.



3. The Brewery Master's House

Used as the Glebe House for St. Patrick's Upper until the early 1930s when Donaghmore Upper was grouped with Pomeroy. The minister was then transferred to Thornhill Glebe.

Formerly this was the Brewery Master's house built in 1797. The Brewery master controlled the dispatch of all beer and spirits from the brewery through a gate on the upper (west) side of the building.

Note the date-stone set into the low wall on the Main St. Brewery Court estate was built on the site of the old brewery.



4. Brown's Soapworks

Brown's Soap and Candle Works were set up by David Brown in 1820. The firm gave much needed employment for 140 years. Colleen soap was one of their best known products. In 1895 Browns bought McClintons of Belfast and they retained the name. The firm created an entire village called Ballymacclinton Village at the White City Exhibition in London in 1908. From 1880 until its closure in 1953 it was the largest soap factory in Ireland. Browns also manufactured plant sprays and fertilizers.



5. St. Patrick's R.C. Church

In the 1731 Report on the State of Popery in Donaghmore two mass houses were recorded. There was already a chapel here in 1806 but after Catholic Emancipation 1829 things began to move again in the parish. Fr. Neil McGuckian became parish priest in 1837 and he began to build schools and churches in the parish. The existing church was demolished in 1845 and this new larger and higher one built on the site.



6. The Old Cross

The Old Cross dates back to the 9th Century and is a relic of the monastic settlement in Donaghmore which lasted from the 6th - 12th Century. The cross is a composite of two sandstone crosses that were found along the banks of the River Torrent in the 18th Century. It was erected in its present position by the Rev. Richard Vincent in 1776. Carvings on the east face depict scenes from the New Testament and on the west face are scenes from the Old Testament.



7. St. Patrick's Church of Ireland

The original Parish Church of Donaghmore was replaced in 1687 by St. Michael's Church at Castlecaulfield. This church was built as a Chapel of Ease mainly through the influence of Alexander Mackenzie who owned the local brewery. Donaghmore Upper was created a Perpetual Curacy on 1st April 1843 and the church was built and consecrated in September 1843.

It was enlarged in 1867 when the semi-circular apse and square tower were added.

8. Donaghmore Old National School

(The Pink School)

The old school in the graveyard was knocked down in 1858 and was replaced by this new school which was called Donaghmore National School but was more commonly known as the Pink School. It was a Day School and an Evening School. Bernard Brennan and his wife taught in the school for many years and in 1882 Bernard was awarded the Carlisle Blake Premium, the highest educational award. The school closed in the 1950s.



9. Donaghmore Heritage Centre

St. Patrick's National School Donaghmore

This school was built by Canon McCartan in 1883. It had one large room with a partition. Boys and girls were educated separately until 1917 when the two schools amalgamated. The school closed in 1958 and lay unused until a group of local people got together in the 1980s and formed a historical society. The building was refurbished and opened as a heritage centre in 1988. Many local historical records, artefacts, maps and local valuations are housed here. Public lectures are held monthly.



10. Donaghmore Old Graveyard

This is one of the oldest graveyards in Ireland. St. Patrick established a church in Donaghmore in the 5th century and from it developed a monastic settlement. It is likely that the old graveyard dates from then. There is evidence that an early abbey existed within the graveyard. In 1622 a new Protestant church was built inside the graveyard but this was severely damaged during the 1641 Rebellion. In the early 1830s a schoolhouse was built just behind the old cross. People of all denominations were buried here.- Including Rev. Thomas Kennedy of Carland Presbyterian Church. There are over 420 headstones. A replica of the old cross is situated in the graveyard (2001). Remains of a 7th Century Horizontal Mill exist there.



11. Mullygruen House

The George Walker House / St. Joseph's Convent / St. Joseph's Grammar School

The Vicars of Donaghmore used this site from the earliest times for their residences. The Rev. George Walker built a house here in 1683 which was destroyed during the Jacobite Wars 1689-1703. His son John rebuilt it in 1707. After the Walker family left Donaghmore, the Blackhalls were the next owners and after them came Alexander Mackenzie, owner of a successful brewery in Donaghmore. Then came the Lyle family and in the 1920s the Daughters of the Cross of Liege took possession of it. They opened a secondary school for girls which flourishes as a co-educational school now.



12. The Old Rectory at Mullaghmore Glebe

(On Castlecaulfield Rd. opposite. Dilworth farm entrance)

The Glebe house was originally at Mullygruen but in 1735 Lord Charlemont exchanged the Glebe lands and house for the townlands of Killyharry and Mullaghmore because he wanted a Glebe house more convenient to St. Michael's church. In 1737 the Rev. Richard Vincent built part of this Glebe house in Mullaghmore. In 1810 another addition was added. This old rectory and Glebe lands were sold in 1957 and a new rectory built in Castlecaulfield in 1958.

The Dilworth Farm

Directly opposite the Old Rectory and a short distance from the road, lie the ruins of the Mullaghcreevy home of James Dilworth, the founder and benefactor of the Dilworth School in Auckland, New Zealand.



13. St. Michael's Church

The original Parish Church of Donaghmore, situated in Donaghmore Old Graveyard and had been severely damaged in the 1641 Rebellion. In 1673 Lord Charlemont decided to have a new church built on a site adjacent to his house at Castlecaulfield. The new church was consecrated in 1687. It consisted of a nave and a tower which was surrounded by a steeple and it had a gallery. The original steeple had been cracked by vibrations from the bell and had to be taken down. The Transepts and Chancel were added about 1861. Two figures built into the north wall of the tower are said to have come from Donaghmore Abbey and a sundial on the south side of the tower is dated 1685.

The Rev. George Walker and his wife Isabella are buried inside the church.



14. Castlecaulfield Castle

In 1609 Sir Toby Caulfield, an English soldier who had fought for Queen Elizabeth the First in Spain and the Lowlands and against Hugh O'Neill in Ireland, was rewarded by King James the First with 1000 acres at Ballydonnelly. He later received a knighthood and became Lord Charlemont. Here he built a village for his men which he called Castlecaulfield and in 1614 he built this castle for himself in the English style. It is generally believed an O'Donnelly fort originally stood here.

The castle was built from limestone and probably had a slated roof. It had cellars, a small court, and a medieval style gate lodge for defensive purposes. The site was not a particularly defensive one. In the Rebellion of 1641 the castle was attacked by the O'Donnells and burned and it has been a ruin ever since.

The Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is built on the site of the Old Co-operative creamery 1898-1924. In 1927 Mrs Burges bought the creamery premises and presented them to St. Michael's church for use as a parish hall. It was re-named Parkanaur Hall. Over 120,000 American servicemen arrived in Northern Ireland in 1942 and a number of them were billeted in the Parkanaur Hall and in local farm hay sheds. Their meals came from the nearby cook-house.



15. Parkanaur House and Demesne

Parkanaur House and Demense belonged to the Burges family.

In 1771 Ynyr Burges of Eastham in Essex bought five townlands in this area as a dowry for his daughter, but when he and his son in law came to see the land they were so disappointed in it that they leased it to his cousin John Burges of Armagh who mortgaged it and it passed down his line to John Burges and then to Ynyr Burges the diarist.

The first house built on the property in 1800 was a small lodge which was extended in 1820. As the 19th century progressed both house and gardens were greatly developed. Gate lodges were added and thousands of trees planted.

Many tenants were forced from their tenancies to make way for the plantations.

