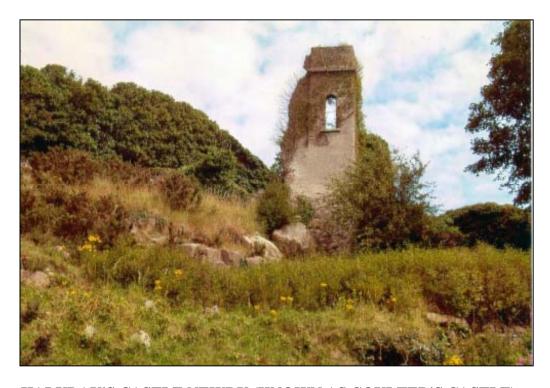
HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



HALYDAY'S CASTLE NEWRY (KNOWN AS COULTER'S CASTLE)

This ivy clad Gothic style building has a date stone indicating building completion in 1838. It is situated on a rocky out crop on a steep slope above Chapel Street with a panoramic view of the Albert Basin, Newry and is virtually inaccessible from a safety point of view. There is a vaulted cellar that can be seen through a large hole in the crumbling floor, and there is a floor, pictured, that had two rooms a living room and kitchen; the upper story has long gone. The building was essentially a folly styled as a miniature castle. Just outside the castle is a reputed site of an ancient monastery probably accessed through an arch blocked with boulders.

It is not certain but it is possible Robert Halyday built the Castle then a Mr. George Wilkinson lived here in 1863, then a local wine and spirit merchant, Mr. Robert Gass. The castle was continuously occupied until the 1940s and then apparently left. In the 1950s some determined vandals, reputedly wrecked the remains of the building.