THE NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

LISBURN BRANCH

HUGH McCALL

Hugh McCall was born on the 21st April 1805 in Chapel Hill, Lisburn, the eldest child of Robert McCall, a muslin manufacturer, and Catherine Jacobsen, a Norwegian. The family moved to Seymour Street, and then the corner of Market Square and Market Street. He was educated by a Mrs. Sweeny and then, from October 1813, a Mr. Shields in Castle Street.

In 1818 Hugh became a traveller for his father's muslin business, then later, in 1823, set up on his own in the pawnbroking trade with premises in Bow Street, Lisburn and Curtis Street, Belfast. He had extensive knowledge of local affairs in Ulster, especially Lisburn and Belfast. He was a prolific writer, fluent speaker and interested in local politics, contributing articles to 'The Northern Whig,' 'The Belfast News Letter' and 'The Lisburn Standard,' and for some years was editor of 'The Banner of Ulster' One of the books that he wrote 'Ireland and her Staple Manufacture' ran to three editions. At the Burns Centenary celebrations in Belfast, in January 1859, he was selected to make one of the principal speeches, and he was also a founder member, with John Millar, of the Lisburn Literary Society.

Hugh married Susanna Brinkman 25th October 1832 and had four sons and four daughters. He died on the 12th March 1897, shortly before his ninety-second birthday, and is buried in Kilrush Burying Ground, Lisburn.

His life can be summed up by the words on a memorial tablet to him unveiled in Lisburn Cathedral in July 1924.

'*One who was given to Philanthropy, Justice and Truth.*
A Journalist without fear
An Accurate Historian
A Painstaking Chronicler.'