

ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



INNISRUSH FLAX MILL, NEAR GLENONE, PORTGLENONE, CO. LONDONDERRY

A wrong turn on a road led me to find this 'Hidden Gem' of a ruin.

Innisrush flax mill in the parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly stands adjacent to the Clady river which at this part is spanned by a small footbridge. The mill dates pre 1836 and is described in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland as -

'Occupied by James Courtnay, the mill is thatched and stands 1 storey. The water wheel is undershot, diameter 12 feet 6 inches, breadth across the wheel 12 feet 2 and a half inches, fall of water 7 feet. There is a good supply of water at the mill all seasons of the year.'

Some of the old machinery can still be seen in the ruin and nearby several derelict workers' cottages are evident. The vibrancy and noise of this former industrial area have been reduced to silence and sound of the Clady river flowing gently past the ruins.

The graves of the Courtnay family who also owned several corn mills in the area can be found in the local church graveyard.

Maud Hamill.