

HIDDEN GEMS AND FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

ANTRIM AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE MASS FIELD AT THE MILLTOWN

(Beside the Mass Field)

Located at the junction of Milltown Road and Junction Road and stretching along both roads, the hamlet of today owes its name to the mill. It sits on the footprint of the original Milltown which in the 1830s consisted of a straggling, irregular street with a corn mill, kilns and thirty five to forty houses. Built of stone and lime with a kitchen and one or two other well lit rooms, a few of the houses were slated and two were two storeys high. Some were kept clean and comfortable but most were dirty and untidy. Passing through the hamlet along the Milltown Road, then, as now, people would have come to a field which was well known as the Mass Field. Here the local catholic community met, during the era of the Penal Codes, to celebrate Sunday Mass. In the 1780's the field became a cemetery but Mass continued to be celebrated there, adjacent to the grave of Henry Falloon beside the cemetery wall, until, in 1820, the new Roman Catholic Chapel was consecrated in Antrim.